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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF JANICE LUONGO

Introduced By: Representatives Morales, Blazejewski, Kazarian, Chippendale, Biah, Kennedy, Ajello, Shallcross Smith, Boylan, and Hopkins

Date Introduced: May 19, 2026

Referred To: House read and passed

1           WHEREAS, It is with profound sadness that this House has learned of the passing of  
2 Janice Luongo on May 12, 2026, at the age of 75, after a sudden illness; and

3           WHEREAS, Janice Luongo was a compassionate advocate, writer, and tireless champion  
4 for Rhode Islanders experiencing homelessness, poverty, addiction, and hardship, dedicating  
5 much of her life to uplifting society's most vulnerable citizens; and

6           WHEREAS, At the center of Janice's life was her beloved wife and partner of thirty-five  
7 years, Annmarie "Annie" Simoli, with whom she shared a life rooted in love, devotion, creativity,  
8 resilience, and unwavering support; and

9           WHEREAS, She also leaves behind her beloved aunts and uncle, Rita and Al Poli and  
10 Anne Caldarella; her brother, Thomas; cousins; extended family members; dear friends;  
11 colleagues; and the many communities she touched through her advocacy, mentorship, and  
12 friendship; and

13           WHEREAS, Janice Luongo was widely respected for her honesty, courage, and  
14 passionate voice on behalf of those too often unheard. Whether speaking about injustice,  
15 community, love, or public policy, she spoke plainly, fearlessly, and memorably, earning  
16 admiration throughout Rhode Island's advocacy and service communities; and

17           WHEREAS, Janice devoted much of her life to building stronger communities and  
18 coalitions of care, from her early work at the Smith Hill Center to her more recent collaboration  
19 with Better Lives RI and her service as Editor-in-Chief of "Street Sights," Rhode Island's only  
20 publication dedicated to issues affecting the homeless community; and

1           WHEREAS, What began in 2007 as a single sheet of resource information for individuals  
2 experiencing homelessness evolved under Janice’s leadership into a widely respected publication  
3 featuring stories, poetry, artwork, resource information, faith-based encouragement, and firsthand  
4 accounts written by and for individuals living through poverty and housing insecurity; and

5           WHEREAS, Through “Street Sights,” Janice ensured that critical information and human  
6 stories reached those living in shelters, encampments, on the streets, and in temporary housing  
7 situations, often personally distributing copies throughout communities she knew intimately  
8 through her own lived experiences and advocacy work; and

9           WHEREAS, Janice also contributed her voice and expertise to numerous public  
10 conversations concerning homelessness and housing insecurity in Rhode Island, consistently  
11 challenging public officials and community leaders to move beyond temporary solutions and  
12 address the root causes of homelessness through dignity, compassion, and meaningful action; and

13           WHEREAS, Her memorable and deeply human question, “What About Tonight?”,  
14 became a rallying cry reminding policymakers and advocates alike that immediate human  
15 suffering demanded urgent attention and action; and

16           WHEREAS, Janice’s advocacy was informed not only by intellect and compassion, but  
17 also by her own lived experiences overcoming adversity, allowing her to connect authentically  
18 with those struggling through homelessness, addiction, trauma, and poverty; and

19           WHEREAS, Friends and fellow advocates remembered Janice as a woman possessing  
20 what her grandmother lovingly called “a heart of gold,” whose generosity was sincere, whose  
21 compassion was constant, and whose commitment to others never wavered; and

22           WHEREAS, Throughout her life, Janice Luongo strengthened Rhode Island through her  
23 courage, empathy, advocacy, and unwavering dedication to human dignity, leaving behind a  
24 legacy that will continue inspiring future generations of advocates and community leaders; now,  
25 therefore be it

26           RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby  
27 expresses its deepest condolences to the family, friends, loved ones, and colleagues of Janice  
28 Luongo on her passing; and be it further

29           RESOLVED, That this House honors and remembers Janice Luongo for her  
30 extraordinary life of advocacy, compassion, and service to the people of Rhode Island,  
31 particularly those experiencing homelessness and hardship; and be it further

1           RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
2 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to Annmarie “Annie” Simoli and the family of  
3 Janice Luongo.

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