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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

SENATE RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING SINCERE CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF MARY D. BURKE

Introduced By: Senators Tikoian, Lawson, Raptakis, LaMountain, Britto, Felag, de la  
Cruz, Euer, Patalano, and Quezada  
Date Introduced: January 08, 2026

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1           WHEREAS, It is with deep sadness that this Senate has learned of the passing of Mary D.  
2     Burke, the beloved wife of the late Thomas M. Burke for 50 wonderful years, and the cherished  
3     mother of Mary White and her husband, Bill, Michael Burke and his late wife, Diane, our friend  
4     and colleague, the Honorable Senator John Burke, Stephen Burke, the Honorable Patrick Burke  
5     and his wife, Bea, and Thomas Burke and his wife, Sherry Weitzen; and

6           WHEREAS, A lifelong resident of the Town of West Warwick, Mrs. Burke was the  
7     loving daughter of the late John and Helen Bannon, and the sister of Eleanor Keating, Sally  
8     Graham, and the late John Bannon, Jr., James Bannon, and George Bannon. She also leaves  
9     behind her sister-in-law Elizabeth Bannon and many dear nieces and nephews; and

10          WHEREAS, For many years, Mrs. Bannon had been employed in the field of healthcare  
11     where she had worked as a lab technician at Kent Hospital and the former Stat Lab, Inc. Her  
12     leadership, devotion to others, and dedication to her profession had resulted in her promotion to  
13     Director before her retirement in 1995; and

14          WHEREAS, Mrs. Burke and her husband had created and nurtured a marriage that  
15     flourished, a life rooted in faith, love, and service to their community, and a home that was warm  
16     and welcoming. She doted on her family, particularly her grandchildren, Emma, Burke, Aiden,  
17     Ethan, and Phoebe White; Billie Anne Burke; Terrance, Matthew, and Bryana Burke; and her  
18     nine great-grandchildren, who were the light of her life and brought her immense joy; and

19          WHEREAS, A woman of deep faith, Mrs. Burke had been an active communicant of SS.  
20     Peter and Paul Church, where she served for many years as Chairwoman of the parish's cherished

1 Christmas Bazaar, as well as serving as President of the SS. Peter & Paul Rosary & Altar Guild.  
2 She had previously been a parishioner of St. James Parish; and

3 WHEREAS, Dedicated to the community, Mrs. Burke had been a member of the Red Hat  
4 Society, served on the West Warwick Democratic Town Committee, and held a position on the  
5 West Warwick Senior Center Board; and

6 WHEREAS, Mary Burke possessed a vibrant spirit, generous heart, and sharp wit and  
7 there is no doubt touched the lives and left an indelible mark on those she knew and loved, and  
8 she will be dearly missed; now, therefore be it

9 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island hereby extends deepest  
10 condolences and sympathy to the family of Mary D. Bruke; and be it further

11 RESOLED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
12 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to Mary White and Family, Michael Burke and  
13 Family, the Honorable Senator John Burke, Stephen Burke, the Honorable Patrick Burke and  
14 Family, and Thomas Burke and Family.

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