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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

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SENATE RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF MICHAEL J. MURPHY

Introduced By: Senator John P. Burke

Date Introduced: March 26, 2026

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1           WHEREAS, It is with deep sadness that this Senate has learned of the passing of Michael  
2 J. Murphy of Warwick, who departed this life after a courageous four-year battle with cancer. He  
3 was the beloved husband of Nancy Murphy, with whom he shared forty-seven wonderful years of  
4 marriage, and the devoted father of Sean Murphy and Karlah Murphy; and

5           WHEREAS, He was the cherished brother of William J. Murphy, former Speaker of the  
6 Rhode Island House of Representatives, and his wife, Stacey, and brother-in-law of Sandra  
7 Russell. He also leaves behind many loving nephews, nieces, cousins, and dear friends. He was  
8 predeceased by his parents, John and Dorothy Murphy, and his brother-in-law, Norman Russell;  
9 and

10           WHEREAS, A proud graduate of West Warwick High School, Michael was a member of  
11 the Wizards State Championship Basketball Team and served as Vice President of the Spanish  
12 Club, demonstrating early leadership and a passion for athletics and learning; and

13           WHEREAS, Michael continued his education at Quinnipiac College, earning a  
14 Bachelor's Degree in Spanish, and further enriched his studies abroad at the University of  
15 Salamanca in Spain, becoming well known for his wit and distinction; and

16           WHEREAS, Michael enjoyed a long and successful career as an insurance agent for more  
17 than thirty years, during which time he operated his own agency, earning the respect and trust of  
18 his clients and colleagues. Earlier in his career, he was the proprietor of Pat's Tap in the city of  
19 Providence, where he gained recognition for his engaging personality and talents as a bartender  
20 and skilled Blackjack dealer; and

1           WHEREAS, A passionate sportsman, Michael was an avid golfer and longtime member  
2 of Valley Country Club, proudly achieving a hole-in-one during his golfing career and sharing  
3 many memorable moments on the course with friends; and

4           WHEREAS, Demonstrating a lifelong commitment to youth and community, Michael  
5 was the basketball coach at St. Joseph School in West Warwick for over thirty-five years,  
6 mentoring generations of young athletes, and was honored as a member of the inaugural class  
7 inducted into the Rhode Island Catholic Athletic League Hall of Fame; and

8           WHEREAS, Known for his positive spirit, Michael was a self-proclaimed gourmet cook  
9 who delighted family and friends with his holiday traditions, and he was admired for always  
10 seeing the good in others and living life to its fullest; and

11           WHEREAS, The passing of Michael J. Murphy leaves a profound void in the lives of his  
12 loving family, friends, and all who had the privilege of knowing him, yet his legacy of kindness,  
13 dedication, and optimism will endure; now, therefore be it

14           RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island hereby expresses its deepest  
15 condolences to the family and friends of Michael J. Murphy; and be it further

16           RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
17 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the family of Michael J. Murphy.

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