

2021 -- H 5045

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING THE 400,000 AMERICANS AND OVER 2,000 RHODE ISLANDERS WHO  
HAVE LOST THEIR LIVES TO COVID-19

Introduced By: Representatives Cortvriend, Blazejewski, Filippi, Ruggiero, McGaw,  
Morales, C Lima, Tanzi, Kazarian, and Craven

Date Introduced: January 21, 2021

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, Our nation has reached a grave point in our history as the death toll from  
2 COVID-19 has surpassed 400,000 Americans including more than 2000 Rhode Islanders; and

3 WHEREAS, The Presidential Inaugural Committee hosted a lighting ceremony at the  
4 Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool on the afternoon of January 19, 2021, a day ahead of  
5 President-elect Biden's inauguration-in ceremony and encouraged communities across the  
6 country to mark the moment; and

7 WHEREAS, The rapid spread of the virus, the scope of its impact, and the mitigation  
8 through "social distancing" has prevented families and communities from having the opportunity  
9 to grieve, remember, and mourn those lives taken by this disease; and

10 WHEREAS, So many Rhode Islanders are grieving the loss of family, friends, and  
11 neighbors and the mourning process has been delayed, inhibited, and distorted in ways that have  
12 left us as individuals and as a community with unresolved grief that will affect us for years to  
13 come; and

14 WHEREAS, The pandemic has also exposed longstanding inequalities that make racial  
15 minorities and economically disadvantaged groups more vulnerable to COVID-19 and numerous  
16 other diseases. Frontline workers who care for our sick and elderly, pack our groceries, and serve  
17 our food, along with the homeless and our non-English speaking residents are the people who  
18 need our attention most as we work to prevent more deaths from COVID-19; and

19 WHERAS, It is important that we honor those who have died and reflect on what has

1 been one of the more challenging periods in our nation’s history; now, therefore be it

2 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby  
3 stands together in shared grief with all Americans. We moreover rise to observe two minutes of  
4 silence in remembrance of the 2000 Rhode Island souls we have lost, and acknowledge the  
5 marginalized communities that have been disproportionately burdened by COVID-19 and renew  
6 our commitment to coming together to end the pandemic and to rebuild our state and country.

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