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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

SENATE RESOLUTION

EXTENDING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF WILLARD "BILL"
RAPPLEYE

Introduced By: Senators Coyne, Ruggerio, Algiere, Felag, Raptakis, Burke, Miller,
Rogers, Paolino, and de la Cruz

Date Introduced: January 12, 2021

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, It is with sincere sadness that this Senate has learned of the passing of Bill
2 Rappleye, a renowned veteran political reporter, and the beloved father of five daughters,
3 Georgia, Anika, Chesley, Karma, and Layla Rappleye; and

4 WHEREAS, "Rapp," as he was commonly known in journalistic and political circles,
5 was a brilliant journalist and person of acute perspicacity, who thoughtfully and relentlessly
6 pursued the news in an inspiring career that spanned almost 40 years; and

7 WHEREAS, Mr. Rappleye was born in Houston and raised in Cambridge, Massachusetts,
8 but the Ocean State was always his true home. He was the son of Ann and Fuzz Crompton and
9 the brother of Tim Rappleye and the late Charles Rappleye. His nascent career began in the early
10 1980s working as a photographer/reporter for cable television in New Bedford. He subsequently
11 spent seven years at WLNE, where he reported on numerous events and established himself as the
12 station's environmental reporter. He also held reporting positions in Boston and New York; and

13 WHEREAS, For almost eighteen years, Mr. Rappleye was a political reporter with
14 WJAR Channel 10. During his tenure at the station, he hosted the public affairs program "10
15 News Conference," moderated debates, reported from the New Hampshire primary and national
16 conventions, and interviewed countless local, state and federal politicians. Most recently, he
17 worked with Rhode Island's public television station, WSBE, where he worked on longer-form
18 investigative projects, and was the co-host of Rhode Island PBS Weekly; and

19 WHEREAS, Mr. Rappleye's comprehensive reporting of Rhode Island's political issues

1 and events has been well-reasoned and thoughtful and his reputation for fully appreciating the
2 power and intensity of ethically reporting the news earned him the admiration of both his peers
3 and those he sought to interview; and

4 WHEREAS, In addition, Mr. Rappleye earned a plethora of awards and nominations for
5 his coverage within the Rhode Island State House and Washington, D.C., including Associated
6 Press awards, a regional Emmy award, a national award from the Association of Capitol
7 Reporters and Editors and numerous additional accolades; and

8 WHEREAS, Bill Rappleye was a brilliant journalist, a good friend, an amazing father,
9 and a true gentleman who has left the people of Rhode Island more informed and enlightened by
10 his life's endeavors. His integrity and common sense enriched the lives of all who knew him and
11 set a standard for journalistic excellence that is an inspiration to us all; now, therefore be it

12 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island hereby expresses our deepest
13 sympathies on the passing of Willard "Bill" Rappleye; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
15 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Ann and Fuzz Crompton and Family.

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