

2022 -- H 7059

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2022

HOUSE RESOLUTION

EXTENDING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF RETIRED COMMANDER
MICHAEL J. BABULA

Introduced By: Representatives Shekarchi, Vella-Wilkinson, Solomon, Bennett,
McNamara, Blazejewski, Shanley, and Shallcross Smith

Date Introduced: January 11, 2022

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, It is with sadness that this House has learned of the passing of Michael J.
2 Babula, the beloved husband of Jeanne Babula, and the highly-respected, retired Commander of
3 the Warwick Police Department; and

4 WHEREAS, Born in Fall River, Massachusetts, Mr. Babula was the devoted son of the
5 late Vitald and Sadie Babula, the brother of Rachel Farnsworth and her husband, Donald, and a
6 wonderful uncle to his nieces and nephews. He had earned his Bachelor's degree in Law
7 Enforcement from Salve Regina University, and had served our country with honor in the United
8 States Air Force and later with the Army. As a Green Beret, he served in South America with
9 Special Operations; and

10 WHEREAS, To the very good fortune of the people of Warwick, Michael Babula took
11 the oath of office to join the Warwick Police Department in December of 1982. For the initial
12 seven years of his employment, he served as a Patrolman, followed by a promotion to the rank of
13 Detective. After one year demonstrating tremendous aptitude, he was promoted to Sergeant
14 supervising in the Patrol and Administrative Services Divisions; and

15 WHEREAS, In 1995, then-Sergeant Babula was once again promoted, this time to
16 Lieutenant working in the Patrol and the Community Services Divisions. In 1998, he was named
17 Captain and served as the Officer-in-Charge of 3rd, 2nd, and 1st Platoons, Patrol Division and
18 lastly, the Detective Division, and in 2009, through hard work and diligence, he was promoted to
19 the rank of Major serving for one year as the Operations Bureau Commander before ultimately

1 being promoted to Commander (Deputy Chief); and

2 WHEREAS, An Officer and a gentleman, Commander Babula was truly dedicated to
3 serving the people of Warwick and had earned a panoply of honors and commendations
4 throughout his career. Most notably, he was the recipient of a Medal of Bravery for his heroic
5 efforts while serving as a Sergeant, during which time he had witnessed a motorcycle/car
6 accident. While waiting for rescue apparatus and additional units, he approached the person
7 involved in the accident whose legs were on fire and quickly dragged him to safety. While doing
8 so, the gas tank on the motorcycle exploded, necessitating the Sergeant to move the rider further
9 away while putting out the flames on the person using his hand; and

10 WHEREAS, In June of 2018, Commander Babula retired after serving thirty-five years of
11 dedicated and honorable service to the people and the City of Warwick. In his off-duty hours, he
12 had been an avid reader, scholar of history, accomplished knife maker, and had spent many years
13 touring the East Coast on his motorcycle with his wife, and enjoying the companionship of his
14 Golden Retrievers; and

15 WHEREAS, Many people will go through their lives without any personal contact with a
16 potential life or death situation, without a defining moment that turns an ordinary person into a
17 hero. Commander Babula faced such challenges many times during the course of his career and
18 there is no doubt that he left this world a far better place because of his life's endeavors. He was a
19 friend and mentor to many and he will be dearly missed; now, therefore be it

20 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
21 extends deepest condolences on the passing of retired Commander of the Warwick Police
22 Department, Michael J. Babula; and be it further

23 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
24 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Mrs. Jeanne Babula and Family.

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