

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2022

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF JOHN GAROFALO, SR.

Introduced By: Representatives Azzinaro, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Corvese, Kennedy,  
Kazarian, Fellela, and Bennett

Date Introduced: February 03, 2022

Referred To: House read and passed

1           WHEREAS, It is with deep sadness that this House has learned of the passing of Mr.  
2 John Garofalo, Sr., of Westerly, the beloved husband of the late Gloria J. LoPresto Garofalo for  
3 fifty-six years; and

4           WHEREAS, Mr. Garofalo was born in Middletown, Connecticut, a son of the late  
5 Gaetano and Sebastiana Garofalo. At the age of two, he moved to Westerly when his father  
6 became employed by the George C. Moore Company. He inherited his tireless work ethic from  
7 his family and at the age of ten, began working at the Bridge, a shoe shining parlor where he  
8 earned one dollar per day. He also worked at the Modern Grill and Bar, and caddied at the  
9 Misquamicut Golf Club; and

10           WHEREAS, Mr. Garofalo attended the local public schools and the old Westerly High  
11 School where he played on the varsity soccer team and ran cross country. His graduating class of  
12 1937 was the last class to graduate from the old Westerly High School. After graduation, he  
13 worked at Morrone's Garage where owner Mike Morrone mentored him and introduced him to  
14 the world of engineering; and

15           WHEREAS, When the Second World War broke out, a vacant mill across the river in  
16 Pawcatuck, Connecticut, was converted into a military factory. Mr. Garofalo worked there  
17 specializing in propellers before going to Quonset Point to work for the Department of the Navy  
18 in 1941; and

19           WHEREAS, Mr. Garofalo enlisted in the United States Navy in 1943. After completing  
20 various levels of training, he was assigned to serve onboard the USS Lenoir, which served across

1 the Pacific. In recognition of his service to our nation, he was awarded the World War II Victory  
2 Medal, the American Theater Medal and the Asiatic Pacific Theater Medal; and

3 WHEREAS, After the war, Mr. Garofalo worked as a civilian employee of the United  
4 States Navy and Marines, serving in the Overhaul and Repair Departments at the Naval Air  
5 Station at Quonset Point, the Naval Air Supply Office in Philadelphia, and the Naval Air Systems  
6 Command Headquarters in Washington D.C. Thanks to his natural aptitude and expertise in  
7 mechanics, he was quickly promoted from his duties at Quonset Point to serve in Philadelphia  
8 supervising the gathering and assessment of all engineering data. He was once again promoted  
9 and then transferred to Washington D.C., where he served in several important positions,  
10 including being responsible for the Navy's fixed wing and helicopters production during the  
11 Korean War. He frequently met senior admirals at the White House to plan the future purchases  
12 and world-wide maintenance of all Navy aircraft; and

13 WHEREAS, In his last assignment, Mr. Garofalo served as the Program Manager of the  
14 President's fleet of helicopters during the Kennedy, Johnson and Nixon presidencies. He would  
15 later vividly recall meeting First Lady Jackie Kennedy and famed engineer Igor Sikorsky, the  
16 inventor of the helicopter. When Lyndon Johnson became President, he wanted changes made to  
17 the fleet, and proceeded to meet with Mr. Garofalo, once or twice a week, to discuss possible  
18 adjustments; and

19 WHEREAS, During his tenure in our nation's capital, Mr. Garofalo was on call 24 hours  
20 a day and was widely admired by his colleagues for his tireless work ethic and love for our  
21 nation. When he retired from government service, he received the highest commendations for  
22 pioneering and advancing logistic systems for many of our country's leading edge military  
23 aircraft; and

24 WHEREAS, After retiring from the United States Navy and Marines, Mr. Garofalo,  
25 proceeded to take a position with the Grumman Aerospace Corp., in Long Island, New York,  
26 where he served in the engineering department and contributed to the development of support  
27 programs for aircraft, space shuttles, and major supporting equipment before permanently retiring  
28 and returning home to Westerly; and

29 WHEREAS, Mr. Garofalo leaves behind his children, John Garofalo, Jr., and Constance  
30 Andrews. He also leaves behind his brother-in-law, Donald LoPresto, and numerous  
31 grandchildren, nieces and nephews. He was the brother of the late Constance Cleary, Anne  
32 Oslund, Jill White, Joseph Garofalo, and Arthur Garofalo; now, therefore be it

33 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby  
34 expresses its deepest condolences to the Garofalo Family on the passing of John Garofalo, Sr.;

1 and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
3 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to John Garofalo, Jr., and Constance Andrews.

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