

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2023

HOUSE RESOLUTION

EXTENDING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF WILLIAM E.
MCKENNEY, III

Introduced By: Representatives Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale, Tanzi, Ajello,
Corvese, McNamara, Phillips, McGaw, and Felix

Date Introduced: June 01, 2023

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, It is with sadness that this House has learned of the passing of William
2 McKenney, III, the eldest son of the late Dr. William and Mary McKenney, and the brother of Dr.
3 Paul McKenney and his wife, Mary Ann, our friend and colleague, the Honorable Mark
4 McKenney, Esq. and his wife, Tricia, Maryjo Covey, RN, and her husband, Ron, and Ann Marie
5 DeMontigny and her husband, Richard; and

6 WHEREAS, In addition to his brothers and sisters, Mr. McKenney was the cherished
7 uncle of thirteen nieces and nephews and fourteen grand-nieces and nephews, as well as many,
8 many cousins and wonderful friends; and

9 WHEREAS, Mr. McKenney, known as "Bill" by his friends and family, was born in
10 Washington, D.C. and attended Park Elementary School, Lockwood Jr. High School, and after
11 moving to Rhode Island, graduated from Bishop Hendricken High School, where he was active in
12 the school's performing arts programs. He continued his education, earning a Bachelor's degree
13 in Music Education from Ithaca College, where he continued his involvement in the performing
14 arts as a member of the fraternity Kappa Gamma Psi; and

15 WHEREAS, From 1975 through 1980, Mr. McKenney served as Music Director at
16 Hendricken, where his leadership of the program earned the students and school wide acclaim
17 and numerous invitations to perform locally and at the 1977 Inauguration Parade in Washington,
18 D.C.; and

19 WHEREAS, In addition to his teaching, Mr. McKenney sang with the prestigious

1 diocesan Peloquin Chorale, participated in numerous summer stock seasons at the popular
2 Matunuck Theatre-By-The-Sea, and played the leading role in the Prout-Hendricken alumni
3 production of 1776; and

4 WHEREAS, In 1980, Mr. McKenney returned to Washington, D.C., in order to complete
5 his Master's degree in Musicology from Catholic University of America. He was employed at
6 Two Quail Restaurant on Capitol Hill, and later, at The Wine Specialist. His love of Italy and
7 wine became a central theme in his life, leading to his working as a wine consultant and
8 distributor in Washington and most recently, with Siema Wines in Springfield, Virginia; and

9 WHEREAS, Bill McKenney enjoyed and was blessed with a life filled with good friends
10 and family. He spent much of his time in altruistic endeavors and advocating for deserving
11 causes, and the most fitting tribute to his spirit is surely a celebration of his life, where each and
12 every day was lived fully and joyfully embraced. He will be dearly missed and forever
13 remembered; now, therefore be it

14 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
15 expresses deepest condolences on the passing of William McKenney, III; 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 Dr. Paul McKenney and Family, the Honorable
18 Mark McKenney, Esq. and Family, Maryjo Covey, RN, and Family, and Ann Marie DeMontigny
19 and Family.

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