

LC02838

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2003

HOUSE RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHIES ON THE PASSING OF GRAHAM
BARTIMAEUS KEHOE

Introduced By: Representatives Winfield, Enos, Aubin, and Sherlock

Date Introduced: March 19, 2003

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, It is with deep sadness that we have learned of the passing of Graham B.
2 Kehoe. Born in Providence, RI on September 23, 1992, he was the beloved son of his adopted
3 parents Kevin C. Kehoe and Rhonda Brown-Kehoe and much adored brother Connor; and

4 WHEREAS, With his “elf-like” grin, Graham had an ability to make everyone around
5 him feel loved. He was a nonstop, curious child who mastered tasks that were deemed
6 “impossible” for someone his age. Graham began to read and write before kindergarten and
7 would remember songs and stories after hearing them only once; and

8 WHEREAS, In February 2002, seizures prohibited Graham from walking. A wheelchair
9 became necessary and Graham somehow made this ordeal a pleasant one for those around him.
10 He had the wheelchair in his favorite color, hot purple and the children at school were on a list for
11 a turn to be the driver of the “purple mean machine”; and

12 WHEREAS, Despite Graham’s disease, he remained consistently happy with a smile and
13 giggle that was infectious. He developed a penchant for blondes among his favorite caregivers at
14 Hasbro Children’s Hospital and when asked about his love of blondes, a grin would appear
15 followed by a hug; and

16 WHEREAS, Graham’s September, 2002 hospital stay, where he celebrated his 10th
17 birthday, could be noticed from the intersection of Dudley and Eddy Streets with a neon sign of a
18 huge smiling face and hello. Graham stated this would be his last visit to “my hospital,” the last
19 of treatments and hospital stays. His exceptional love of nature and never wanting to see any

1 living thing suffer, certainly prompted his decision to pass with dignity; and

2 WHEREAS, By March, every breath for Graham was an effort. However, knowing how
3 his family and friends loved to see him smile, he learned how to take extra breaths in order to
4 giggle or smile just to please them; and

5 WHEREAS, He was a communicant and member of St. Thomas Church in Greenville
6 and was a special, spiritual person. His parents made a promise to honor his wishes of not
7 returning to the hospital, thus a 48-hour vigil began letting him peacefully pass to what he always
8 called heaven “my house, my home”; now, therefore be it

9 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
10 Providence Plantations hereby expresses our deepest sympathies to the Kehoe family and those
11 who surrounded him during his brief life. He will forever be remembered by all those lives he
12 touched; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to
14 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the Kehoe family.

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