

2012 -- H 7476

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2012

H O U S E R E S O L U T I O N

**EXPRESSING SINCERE CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF THE REVEREND
NAOMI JENNINGS CRAIG**

Introduced By: Representatives Blazejewski, Fox, Ajello, Hull, and Williams

Date Introduced: February 09, 2012

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, It is with utmost sadness that this House has learned of the passing of
2 Reverend Naomi Jennings Craig, a devoted wife, mother, and grandmother, and the beloved
3 pastor of the Sheldon Street Church for many years; and

4 WHEREAS, At the age of eight, Rev. Craig began teaching Sunday School. At age
5 seventeen, she founded the Christ Temple Church with a small group of women, and at age
6 eighteen, she was doing missionary work. However, it was not until age 78, that she was ordained
7 as a Baptist minister and became the pastor of the historic Sheldon Street Church in Fox Point. In
8 the intervening years, Rev. Craig led a life filled with purpose, adventure, and learning; and

9 WHEREAS, Upon graduation from Hope High School, Rev. Craig worked as a social
10 services counselor. She met and married Horace Craig, and together they raised their son, David,
11 and daughter, Carol; and

12 WHEREAS, In the 1960s, while working as a senior clerk for the state's tax division,
13 Rev. Craig became active in the Urban League and that involvement resulted in her traveling to
14 Washington in 1963, to support Jobs and Freedom and to hear Martin Luther King, Jr., make his
15 famous "I have a Dream" speech. Thirty years later, she returned to Washington for the 30th
16 Anniversary of the march; and

17 WHEREAS, After retiring from the state, at an age and time in life when most women
18 would seek a quieter and slower pace, Rev. Craig decided to enroll in college. She earned
19 multiple degrees, graduating magna cum laude from Roger Williams College, the former

1 Barrington College, and Rhode Island College; and

2 WHEREAS, During her remarkable lifetime, Rev. Craig accumulated wisdom and
3 friends, admirers and awards, and always immense respect. She was a grand lady, a devout
4 Christian and minister, and a community leader who will be greatly missed; now, therefore be it

5 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
6 Providence Plantations hereby expresses our deepest sympathies on the passing of Rev. Naomi
7 Jennings Craig; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to
9 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to David Craig and Family, and Carol Rockington
10 and Family.

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