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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2012

SENATE RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF RALPH RAFAELIAN

Introduced By: Senators Gallo, Lanzi, Miller, Pichardo, and Walaska

Date Introduced: March 13, 2012

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, It is with profound sadness that we have learned of the passing of Ralph
2 Rafaelian, a man who was deeply devoted to his family and friends. Our thoughts and hearts hold
3 great empathy and sorrow for his loved ones. We grieve with his wife, Lucy, and his children and
4 grandchildren on their tremendous loss; and

5 WHEREAS, Ralph was born in 1935, in Providence, Rhode Island, to his proud parents
6 Melkon and Mariam Rafaelian, and grew up a first generation American and a proud member of
7 the state's Armenian-American community; and

8 WHEREAS, After finishing high school, Ralph was drafted and served his country on a
9 naval destroyer escort for two years. When he returned home, he worked as an assistant trainee at
10 a McLellan five and dime store. Positive that he could do much more, Ralph left and went to
11 work for his brother-in-law in the state's booming jewelry business; and

12 WHEREAS, In 1965, Ralph opened his own business, Cinerama Jewelry, on Empire
13 Street in Providence. There, he made flag pins, as well as red, white, and blue earrings to match,
14 soldered them and had them plated and shipped directly to fundraising organizations. His concept
15 caught on almost immediately. He started selling the patriotic jewelry to organizations like the
16 Veterans of Foreign Wars. Ralph took pride in employing a rapidly expanding number of workers
17 and instilling a love of jewelry-making in his own family; and

18 WHEREAS, The jewelry company Alex and Ani was born from Cinerama Jewelry's
19 efforts, experiences, and philosophy, and would continue Ralph's legacy of excellence and
20 commitment to giving back to the community; and

1 WHEREAS, Even though we are diminished by this loss and mourn Ralph's passing, so
2 must we celebrate the spirit, generosity, and courage with which he lived every day of his life. He
3 taught his children, by example, that hard work is a virtue, that generosity is strength, and that
4 dedication not to self-interest, but rather to the best interests of others, is the wisest of life
5 choices; and

6 WHEREAS, A devoted husband, father, and grandfather, Ralph Rafaelian's life and
7 achievements will live on for many years to come in the memories of everyone fortunate enough
8 to have been touched by the quality of this remarkable gentleman; now, therefore be it

9 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
10 hereby expresses our deepest sympathy to the entire Rafaelian family on the passing of Ralph
11 Rafaelian. He enriched the lives of all who knew him and will be dearly missed; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to
13 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Rafaelian family.

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