

2013 -- S 0168

=====  
LC00893  
=====

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2013

---

SENATE RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF GLORIA HILL SPEARS

Introduced By: Senators Sheehan, and Hodgson

Date Introduced: February 05, 2013

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1           WHEREAS, It is with profound sadness and regret that this Senate has learned of the  
2 passing of Gloria Hill Spears, a loving wife and mother and a lifelong resident of the Town of  
3 Narragansett; and

4           WHEREAS, Born in Philadelphia to the late William and Fannie Hill, Mrs. Spears was a  
5 graduate of Virginia State College, where she earned a degree in Sociology. Following college,  
6 she was employed at the Providence Department of Public Welfare until moving to Children's  
7 Friend and Service in Providence, where she served the children of our state for the next twenty-  
8 seven years; and

9           WHEREAS, In 1949, Mrs. Spears married the love of her life, Donald H. Spears, at the  
10 Pond Street Baptist Church in Providence. For more than sixty-three years their marriage  
11 flourished and was blessed with the addition of their daughters, Linda Susan Spears and Sylvia  
12 Carolle Spears, and their son, David Hill Spears. Mrs. Spears was also the very proud and doting  
13 grandmother of Nicole Michelle Minetti and Asa John Peters; and

14           WHEREAS, Upon her retirement in 1984, Mrs. Spears was honored for her service with  
15 a proclamation from then-Governor J. Joseph Garrahy declaring the celebration of "Gloria Spears  
16 Day." In addition, she was appointed as a member of the Electoral College, where she had the  
17 opportunity to proudly cast one of our state's four delegate votes for William Clinton; and

18           WHEREAS, At the age of 86, Mrs. Spears once again had the opportunity to observe and  
19 be a participant in America's democracy in action when, provided with tickets from Rhode  
20 Island's Congressional delegation, she boarded a train in Kingston and made the trip to

1 Washington, D.C., to witness the inauguration of Barack Obama as this nation’s first African-  
2 American President. She was later quoted in the local paper stating, “I got choked up at times...  
3 There’s so much camaraderie going on here. Oh, the exhilaration, the feeling of being  
4 connected...”; and

5 WHEREAS, Mrs. Spears dedicated much of her life to the service of others and the  
6 advancement of social justice and sound political causes. She was active in her community and  
7 this state through membership and service with the Rhode Island Commission on Minority  
8 Affairs, the Rhode Island and National Women’s Political Caucus, the Rhode Island Governor’s  
9 Commission on Mental Health, the Rhode Island League of Women Voters, the White House  
10 Conference on Families, and the Narragansett Town and Rhode Island Democratic State  
11 Committees, to name just a few; and

12 WHEREAS, Of particular pride to Mrs. Spears was her role in the founding of the  
13 Minority Adoption Project and her service on the Board of Directors for Ocean Tides. She was  
14 also active with the Providence Chapter of C.H.U.M.S., where she had served as National  
15 Parliamentarian for three years, the Tuskegee Airmen’s Association, and Alpha Kappa Alpha;  
16 and

17 WHEREAS, Our thoughts and hearts hold great empathy and sorrow for the family of  
18 Gloria Hill Spears. She truly enriched the lives of all who knew her and she will be dearly missed  
19 in the community; now, therefore be it

20 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
21 hereby expresses its deepest sympathies on the passing of Gloria Hill Spears; and be it further

22 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
23 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to Mr. Donald H. Spears and Family.

=====  
LC00893  
=====