

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2013

SENATE RESOLUTION

**EXPRESSING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF
WILLIAM DEWITT METZ**

Introduced By: Senator V. Susan Sosnowski

Date Introduced: February 28, 2013

Referred To: Placed on the Senate Consent Calendar

1 WHEREAS, It is with great sadness that this Senate has learned of the passing of Dr.
2 William D. Metz, a dedicated and well-respected historian, professor, and preservationist, and the
3 devoted husband of the late Clarice Stiles, father of Elizabeth McNab and her husband, A. David,
4 Dr. William Metz and his wife, Carol, and Dr. Margaret Munroe and her husband, Kevin; and

5 WHEREAS, Bill Metz was born in Buffalo, New York, to the late Rev. William and
6 Minerva Metz. He attained his Bachelor's degree in history from Bates College, graduating Phi
7 Beta Kappa and as President of his class, and received a Ph.D. in history from the University of
8 Wisconsin in Madison. During his summers, Bill worked at the Ferry Beach Unitarian
9 Universalist Camp, and maintained a lifelong family commitment to Ferry Beach, resulting in the
10 construction of the Metz Staff Village; and

11 WHEREAS, Upon completion of his Ph.D., Mr. Metz accepted a position in the History
12 Department at what is now the University of Rhode Island. He later served as Department
13 Chairman from 1962 through 1968, until his retirement in 1982 as Professor Emeritus of History;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, During his tenure at the University of Rhode Island, Mr. Metz was editor of
16 the "New England Social Studies Bulletin" and "The Historian: A Journal of History." He also
17 served as president of Phi Alpha Theta and the National History Honor Society, and was
18 instrumental in bringing Phi Alpha Theta, Phi Kappa Phi, and Phi Beta Kappa chapters to the

1 University of Rhode Island; and

2 WHEREAS, While his work in education at the university was exceptional, Rhode Island
3 history was Bill Metz's specialty and passion, and dedication and involvement within the
4 community was a way of life for him. He was a founding member and served as the first Vice
5 President of the League of Rhode Island Historical Societies, was a Trustee and President of
6 Cocumscussoc Association, a founding member and then President of the Pettaquamscutt
7 Historical Society, the First Chairman of the South Kingstown Historic District Commission, and
8 a member of the South Kingstown Charter Commission, to name just a few of the many
9 organizations to which he devoted his time and talents; and

10 WHEREAS, Within the community, Mr. Metz served as a Warden of the Kingston Fire
11 District, and was a volunteer firefighter, President of Kingston Hill School Parent Teacher
12 Organization, an advisor for the URI Student Fellowship, a member and office holder of the URI
13 Watson House Committee for many years, and an active member and office holder in the
14 Kingston Improvement Association and the Tavern Hall Club; and

15 WHEREAS, Mr. Metz was also devoted to his church, the Kingston Congregational
16 Church. He served on the Board of Deacons, Trustees, Missions, and numerous other
17 committees. He had also taught Sunday School and served at the state level for the United
18 Church of Christ, was Chairman of the Old Fernwood Cemetery Committee for almost 50 years,
19 and recorded the Church's and Kingston's past in his book, "The History of the Kingston
20 Congregational Church," which covers the years 1695 through 1995; and

21 WHEREAS, Throughout his distinguished lifetime, Bill Metz was honored with a
22 panoply of awards and distinctions. The main building of the South County Museum, where he
23 served as President for fourteen years, was named the Metz Building in his honor, and the State
24 of Rhode Island honored him for his lifelong community service by conferring upon him the
25 state's highest historic preservation award, the Antoinette R. Downing Volunteer Service Award;
26 and

27 WHEREAS, Mr. Metz was deeply committed to his profession as well as the community,
28 and was blessed with a large and loving family. In addition to his children, he is survived by six
29 grandchildren, Allan McNab and his wife, Sidney, Deborah Jennings and her husband, Warren,
30 W. Christopher Metz, Jennifer Metz, Scott Munroe and his wife, Lauren, and Kileen Urian, and
31 her husband, Dr. R. Craig, and ten beautiful great-grandchildren, who were the delight of his life;
32 and

33 WHEREAS, William Metz treated those around him with dignity and respect, and there
34 is no doubt that he left Rhode Island a far better place because of his life's endeavors. His

1 intelligence and broad knowledge of our state's history enriched the lives of all who knew him,
2 and he will be greatly missed; now, therefore be

3 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
4 hereby expresses our deepest sympathies on the passing of William Metz; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
6 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to Elizabeth McNab and Family, Dr. William
7 Metz and Family, and Dr. Margaret Munroe and Family.

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