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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2013

SENATE RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF JOHN J. JOYCE, III, A TIRELESS
ADVOCATE FOR THE HOMELESS

Introduced By: Senators McCaffrey, Lynch, and Walaska

Date Introduced: March 05, 2013

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, It is with profound sadness that we have learned of the tragic and untimely
2 passing of Mr. John J. Joyce, III, a man who dedicated his life to the selfless defense of the
3 homeless, the poor and those living on the margins of society; and

4 WHEREAS, John J. Joyce, III was a native of Providence, the son of Elizabeth T.
5 (Martin) Joyce and the late Thomas F. Joyce. John was the Co-Director of the Rhode Island
6 Advocacy Project, a grassroots organization dedicated to protecting the rights and human dignity
7 of those living life on the streets. Mr. Joyce, a man who was once homeless himself, fully
8 understood how bad breaks, difficult circumstances, and a harsh world could lead to a person not
9 having a place to call home, and living a life of despair. Mr. Joyce was never shy in his defense of
10 the homeless and was always willing to confront the powerful in his efforts to create a
11 compassionate and just society for the homeless and the downtrodden; and

12 WHEREAS, Mr. Joyce dedicated his life to helping the homeless and worked tirelessly
13 on their behalf. He helped organize a high-profile tent city in Providence known as “Camp
14 Runamuck” to draw attention to the problems of the homeless. In 2012 he successfully pushed the
15 passage of the landmark law, the “Homeless Bill of Rights”, a law that prevents governments,
16 health care workers, employers and others from treating homeless people unfairly because of their
17 housing status. National homeless advocates called the law the first of its kind. Mr. Joyce and his
18 organization were among those recognized by the National Law Center on Homelessness and
19 Poverty for their work on the bill. Because of Mr. Joyce’s efforts, never again will the homeless

1 in Rhode Island feel as if they don't have a voice, or lack equality under the law; and

2 WHEREAS, Mr. Joyce passed away after losing a courageous fight against cancer.
3 Besides his mother, he leaves behind his partner Megan Smith, of Providence, a brother, Thomas
4 F. Joyce, Jr. and his wife, Ruchi, of Coventry, a sister, Katherine Greenwell and her husband,
5 Joseph, of Warwick, and three nieces and a nephew, Jaya and Caeden Joyce, Shannon and
6 Caleigh Greenwell, as well as many cherished friends and co-workers. He was also a member of
7 the Beneficent Congregational Church in Providence. His zealous advocacy for the homeless and
8 less fortunate, and his kind heart and compassion for those experiencing trouble in life, will be
9 long-remembered by those who knew him. He will be sorely missed by his family and friends,
10 but the memory of his life will live long in the hearts and minds of all who knew him and will
11 serve as a reminder to all of us to never forget the least among us; now, therefore be it

12 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
13 hereby expresses its deepest condolences on the passing of Mr. John J. Joyce, III; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
15 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to Elizabeth T. Joyce and Megan Smith.

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