

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2013**

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**SENATE RESOLUTION**

**EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF THE HONORABLE EDWARD J.  
COONEY**

Introduced By: Senators Sheehan, Paiva Weed, Walaska, Hodgson, and Jabour

Date Introduced: March 27, 2013

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1           WHEREAS, It is with great sadness that this Senate has learned of the passing of The  
2 Honorable Edward J. Cooney, a beloved husband and father, former member and past President  
3 of the North Kingstown Town Council, and a well-respected member of the community; and

4           WHEREAS, Mr. Cooney was born in Providence into the large and boisterous family of  
5 the late Honorable John P. and Margaret M. Cooney. He was the devoted husband of Mary C.  
6 Cooney for thirty-six years and was the loving father of Edward J. Cooney, Jr., and his wife,  
7 Katie, Neal T. Cooney, and the late Meghan C. Cooney. He is also survived by three brothers,  
8 Michael, Terrance, and James Cooney, three sisters, Kathleen Puchella, Agnes Chretien, and  
9 Anne Cooney, and brother of the late John, Robert, Patrick, Margaret, and Clara Cooney; and

10           WHEREAS, Upon graduation from LaSalle Academy, Mr. Cooney received his  
11 Bachelor's degree in Economics from the College of Holy Cross and his Master's degree in  
12 Taxation from Bryant University. He had played basketball and baseball during his high school  
13 and college days, was a member and past president of the Holy Cross Club of Rhode Island, and  
14 had been awarded the Outstanding Alumnus of the Year; and

15           WHEREAS, An astute and industrious man, Mr. Cooney was employed as the Senior  
16 Vice President of Nortek. He had previously served as the Executive Vice President and CFO of  
17 AMTROL and was on the Board for Gilbane Inc., AT Cross Co., Bank Newport, and Leonard  
18 Valve; and

19           WHEREAS, Always an active and contributing member of the community, Mr. Cooney

1 was successfully elected to the North Kingstown Town Council, serving as a member and as  
2 Council President from 2004 through 2008. He was a member and the former Chairman of the  
3 Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce, former Chairman of Kent Hospital, Trustee of Care  
4 New England, and the founder and Chairman of Engage RI. He had also served for three terms as  
5 President of the Point Judith Country Club and was a member of the Dunes Club and the  
6 University Club; and

7 WHEREAS, Earning a plethora of accolades and awards during his lifetime, Mr. Cooney  
8 was honored with the Ambassador of Peace Award from the World Peace Summit, was named  
9 Grand Marshall of the Providence St. Patrick's Day Parade, and was the Person of the Year in  
10 2011 for the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick of Providence, to name just a few. He had also been a  
11 communicant of St. Bernard Church; and

12 WHEREAS, Throughout his life, Mr. Cooney had very much enjoyed staying actively  
13 involved in sports. He was the past president of the Wickford Little League and was head coach  
14 of the Ireland National Baseball Team in 2002. One of his greatest joys had been coaching the  
15 youth of North Kingstown in soccer and baseball; and

16 WHEREAS, Mr. Cooney was also widely-admired and involved at the state level as well  
17 as within his community. He had served as Chairman of Attorney General-Elect Peter Kilmartin's  
18 transition team, Chairman of the Providence Commission on Revenue, Sufficiency, and  
19 Sustainability, former member of the Providence College Investment Committee, a member of  
20 the Governor's Commission to Review the EDC from 2009 until 2010, and a member of the  
21 Governor's Commission to Review Tax Structure from 2008 through 2009; and

22 WHEREAS, Ed Cooney was a gentleman and a dedicated public servant. He left this  
23 world a far better place because of his life's endeavors and enriched the lives of all who knew  
24 him. He will be dearly missed; now, therefore be it

25 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
26 hereby expresses our deepest sympathies to the entire Cooney family on the passing of The  
27 Honorable Edward J. Cooney; and be it further

28 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
29 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Mrs. Mary C. Cooney and Family.

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