

2014 -- H 8190

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2014

H O U S E R E S O L U T I O N

EXPRESSING SINCERE CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF JOSEPH T. GRAHAM

Introduced By: Representatives Bennett, Canario, Hull, Giarrusso, and Ferri

Date Introduced: May 13, 2014

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, It is with utmost sadness that this House has learned of the passing of
2 Joseph T. Graham on April 8th of 2014. He was the beloved common law husband of the late
3 Mary Savard, the devoted father of Ashley M. Graham, and the proud grandfather of Justus Hall;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Born in Providence, Joseph Graham was a son of the late Richard F. and
6 Mary E. Graham. He was the brother of Richard F. Graham, Jr., Mary Audet, Jacqueline Graham
7 Machon, and the late Barbara Ravenelle, and was a devoted uncle; and

8 WHEREAS, For many years, Mr. Graham made his home in the City of Warwick. He
9 was a self-employed arborist and had been the owner of J.T. Graham Tree Service. During those
10 years, life was pretty and he spent many wonderful hours hunting, fishing, and enjoying nature
11 and life in general; and

12 WHEREAS, Joseph Graham had a heart as big as the great outdoors and was often
13 known to hire those who were "down on their luck" or less fortunate in life when he had been
14 running his tree service business; and

15 WHEREAS, Sadly, there came a day when Mr. Graham became one of those less
16 fortunate in our state, eventually becoming one of many homeless people on our streets, seeking
17 shelter from the cold or a warm meal to eat; and

18 WHEREAS, Joseph Graham died a homeless person as too many do in our state. This
19 once prosperous and vigorous man died cold and alone. On Monday May 19, 2014, Joseph
20 Graham's life and his tragic passing will be remembered and recognized at a candlelight vigil at

1 the Arctic Gazebo in West Warwick; and

2 WHEREAS, Joseph Graham was a kind, compassionate and endearing gentleman who
3 enriched the lives of all who knew him and he will be dearly missed; now, therefore be it

4 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
5 Providence Plantations hereby expresses our deepest sympathies on the passing of Joseph T.
6 Graham. We moreover urge the citizens of this state to learn about, advocate for, and lend support
7 to programs to help the homeless in our state; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
9 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Ashley M. Graham and Family.

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