

**2015 -- H 5968**

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**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2015**

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

**EXPRESSING OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHIES AND CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING  
OF JOHN P. O'CONNOR, ESQ.**

Introduced By: Representatives Mattiello, DeSimone, Edwards, Marshall, and Kazarian

Date Introduced: March 24, 2015

Referred To: House read and passed

1           WHEREAS, It is with deep sadness and profound sympathy that this House has learned  
2 of the passing of John P. O'Connor, Esq., the highly respected Director of Legislative Council for  
3 more than twenty-one years, serving under the leadership of four Speakers of the House, and one  
4 Lieutenant Governor and three Senate Presidents; and

5           WHEREAS, John O'Connor is survived by his lovely wife, Elizabeth, and his sons, Sean  
6 and Bréndan. He was also the very proud grandfather of Grace and Quinn; and

7           WHEREAS, John graduated from LaSalle Academy and earned his Bachelor's degree in  
8 Business Management with a minor in Economics and Accounting from Bryant College, and in  
9 November of 1970, began working as a Financial Specialist in the Retirement System Office for  
10 the City of Providence; and

11           WHEREAS, In April of 1974, the citizens of the Ocean State became the beneficiaries of  
12 John's keen intellect and abiding dedication to excellence when he began state service as a  
13 Property Manager. While working in that capacity, he returned to school earning his Juris  
14 Doctorate Degree from the New England School of Law; and

15           WHEREAS, After passing the bar, John joined the Public Defenders Office for the State  
16 of Rhode Island, a position he held until 1984, when he decided to go into private practice. Over  
17 the next eight years, he maintained a flourishing law office, where his expertise in criminal  
18 defense was highly sought, and earned him a solid reputation as a skillful and fearsome attorney;  
19 and

1           WHEREAS, On December 2nd of 1993, John returned to state service when he was  
2 named the Director of Legislative Council for the General Assembly, a position he held for more  
3 than two decades; and

4           WHEREAS, As Director of Legislative Council, John shouldered the responsibility for  
5 the drafting and preparation of the General Assembly's complex legislation, an often Herculean  
6 task, requiring long hours, an immense aptitude, and the ability to juggle a myriad of issues on  
7 any given day; and

8           WHEREAS, In addition, John oversaw the staff of Legislative Council. He was a strong  
9 leader, who encouraged a team approach, often discussing numerous points of view on any given  
10 legislation before proceeding, and he became a mentor to many of Council's lawyers who gained  
11 invaluable experience under his tutelage. John also understood the need for expediency, yet he  
12 would whole-heartedly listen to and stand up for his staff; and

13           WHEREAS, John O'Connor was a legal luminary who possessed a brilliant mind and a  
14 determined spirit. His no-nonsense approach to leadership combined with his tireless devotion to  
15 the citizens of the Ocean State earned him the unqualified admiration and respect of all who knew  
16 him and were invaluable to the efficiency of the entire legislative process. Memories of this  
17 remarkable man and his devoted service to the Rhode Island General Assembly and the citizens  
18 of the Ocean State will long be memorialized, and he will be sorely missed; now, therefore be it

19           RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and  
20 Providence Plantations hereby expresses our heartfelt condolences on the passing of John P.  
21 O'Connor, Esq.; and be it further

22           RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
23 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Mrs. Elizabeth O'Connor and Family.

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