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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2015

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SENATE RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF THE HONORABLE LILA M.  
SAPINSLEY

Introduced By: Senators Goldin, Miller, E O'Neill, Lombardi, and Gallo

Date Introduced: January 06, 2015

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 Lila M. Sapinsley, beloved wife for sixty-nine years to the late John M. Sapinsley, and  
3 the devoted mother of four daughters, Patricia Sapinsley and her husband, Harold Levy, Joan  
4 Sapinsley and her husband, Richard Lewis, Jill Mooney and her husband, James, and Carol  
5 Rubenstein and her husband, Alan. She was also the loving grandmother to nine beautiful  
6 grandchildren and a well-respected former Rhode Island State Senator; and

7           WHEREAS, Ms. Sapinsley was a trail-blazer and champion for women's issues and open  
8 government. While serving as a Rhode Island State Senator, she became the first female to hold a  
9 leadership post after being chosen by her Republican peers to become the Senate Minority  
10 Leader; and

11           WHEREAS, In addition to her service to our state in the General Assembly, Ms.  
12 Sapinsley was a mentor and trusted advisor to decades of Rhode Island's leaders as well as  
13 generations of young women across the state. She served as the Public Utilities Commissioner,  
14 Chairwoman of the Rhode Island Housing and Mortgage Finance Corporation, and was a  
15 constitutional convention delegate; and

16           WHEREAS, Throughout her lifetime, Ms. Sapinsley was an active and contributing  
17 member of the community, working with countless community organizations including Trinity  
18 Repertory Company, Butler Hospital, Providence Public Library, Rhode Island Board of Regents,  
19 Dorcas' Place, American Civil Liberties Union, Planned Parenthood of Rhode Island, and

1 Wellesley College; and

2 WHEREAS, Ms. Sapinsley had also been active in her support for both education and the  
3 arts. She was an advocate and a force behind the creation of the Community College of Rhode  
4 Island and was one of Rhode Island College's greatest supporters. She and her husband John  
5 endowed a theater at Rhode Island College, which is named the Lila and John Sapinsley Hall in  
6 their honor; and

7 WHEREAS, Still dedicated and vigorous at the age of ninety-two, Lila Sapinsley had not  
8 only earned the unqualified admiration and respect of those she worked with, but also their  
9 loyalty, love, and devotion. She was a woman of rare grace, gentility, strength, and immense  
10 wisdom who enriched the lives of all who knew her. She will be greatly missed; now, therefore  
11 be it

12 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
13 hereby expresses our deepest sympathies to the entire Sapinsley Family on the passing of the  
14 Honorable Lila M. Sapinsley; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
16 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to Patricia Sapinsley and Family, Joan Sapinsley  
17 and Family, Jill Mooney and Family, and Carol Rubenstein and Family.

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