

2016 -- H 7939

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2016

HOUSE RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING PROFOUND SYMPATHY ON THE PASSING OF FORMER FIRST LADY
NANCY DAVIS REAGAN

Introduced By: Representatives Costa, Price, Giarrusso, Nardolillo, and Trillo

Date Introduced: March 15, 2016

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, It is with great sadness that this House of Representatives has learned of the
2 passing of Nancy Davis Reagan, beloved wife for 52 years to the former President of the United
3 States, Ronald Reagan, mother of Patti Davis and Ron Reagan, and the step-mother of Michael
4 Reagan and the late Maureen Reagan; and

5 WHEREAS, Nancy Reagan was born Anne Frances Robbins in New York City on July
6 6, 1921. Her mother and father had separated before her birth. Her mother subsequently married
7 Chicago neurosurgeon Loyal Davis who adopted Nancy. She was a graduate of Smith College;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, From 1949 until 1956, Nancy Davis made 11 films as part of the MGM
10 stable. In 1949, as with many actors of that time, she was blacklisted as a communist
11 sympathizer. She turned to a friend for help, who then introduced her to the president of the
12 Screen Actors Guild, Ronald Reagan, who at the time was one of Hollywood's dashing leading
13 men; and

14 WHEREAS, The chronicle of Ronald Reagan and Nancy Davis is a true Hollywood love
15 story. The two wed on March 4, 1952, and in 1966, she began her role as the wife of a politician
16 when her husband was elected as Governor of California; and

17 WHEREAS, In January 1981, Nancy Reagan became the First Lady of the United States,
18 following her husband's victory in the 1980 presidential election. For the next eight years, she
19 became her husband's most devoted and strongest supporter and ally; and

1 WHEREAS, As first lady, Nancy Reagan initiated the "Just say no" campaign and
2 became the spokeswoman of anti-drug campaigns. In 1981, when President Reagan was shot in
3 an assassination attempt, she never left the hospital where he was treated until he was released;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, After eight successful years, the Reagans left the White House. Nancy
6 Reagan was quoted as saying that "her husband represented all of the American people, not just
7 Republicans." Years later, she became his protector again as he struggled with Alzheimer's
8 disease. On June 5, 2004, Ronald Wilson Reagan passed away, but Mrs. Reagan continued her
9 devotion to her husband, as a staunch guardian of his image and legacy; and

10 WHEREAS, There is little doubt that Nancy Davis Reagan inspired this nation. She will
11 forever be remembered for her extraordinary devotion to her husband and our country and she
12 will be dearly missed; now, therefore be it

13 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
14 Providence Plantations hereby expresses our deepest sympathies to the entire Reagan Family on
15 the passing of former First Lady Nancy Davis Reagan; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
17 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to Patti Davis, Ron Reagan, and Michael Reagan.

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