

2016 -- H 8157

=====
LC005900
=====

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2016

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

**EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF FATHER DANIEL JOSEPH
BERRIGAN, S.J.**

Introduced By: Representatives Filippi, Ajello, Handy, Price, and Regunberg

Date Introduced: May 04, 2016

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, Father Daniel Joseph Berrigan, S.J., a Catholic Jesuit Priest noted for his
2 early opposition to the Vietnam War, his opposition to nuclear weapons, and his deep and abiding
3 support for justice, civil rights, and equality, passed away on April 30, 2016, surrounded by his
4 loving family; and

5 WHEREAS, Daniel Joseph Berrigan was born on May 9, 1921, in Virginia, Minnesota,
6 the fifth of six sons born into a devout Catholic family. He later earned a Bachelor's degree from
7 St. Andrew-on-Hudson, a Jesuit Seminary in Hyde Park, New York, and a Master's degree from
8 Woodstock College in Baltimore, Maryland. Father Berrigan felt a calling to the priesthood at a
9 young age and joined the Jesuits directly out of high school, and was ordained into the Priesthood
10 in 1952; and

11 WHEREAS, Early on, Father Berrigan earned a reputation as an activist priest, one who
12 worked tirelessly to fight poverty, social injustice and militarism. After returning from a trip to
13 Paris in 1963, where he was enlightened by French Jesuits about the deplorable conditions and
14 actions taking place in Vietnam, Father Berrigan became one of the first opponents of American
15 involvement in the Vietnam War. He actively preached against the war, wrote many letters to
16 newspapers opposing the war, and was very active in the anti-war movement; and

17 WHEREAS, Father Berrigan later turned his attention to the nuclear weapons issue, and
18 in 1980, founded the Plowshares Movement, a group opposed to nuclear weapons. Father
19 Berrigan was a consistent opponent throughout his life of America's policy of projecting military

1 force across the Globe. In addition to Vietnam, he opposed American military involvement in the
2 1980's in Central America, the Gulf War, the Kosovo War, United States military action in
3 Afghanistan, and the 2003 invasion of Iraq; and

4 WHEREAS, Father Berrigan was also a passionate defender of the weak, the sick and the
5 poor and campaigned tirelessly on behalf of social change. He supported the occupy movement,
6 ministered to AIDS patients in New York City, and opposed capital punishment. In honor of his
7 lifetime of service to others, Father Berrigan received numerous prestigious awards in his life
8 including the War Resisters League Peace Award, the Gandhi Peace Award, the Thomas Merton
9 Award, the Pax Christi USA Pope Paul VI Teacher of Peace Award, the Peace Abbey Courage of
10 Conscience Award, and the Pacem in Terris Award; and

11 WHEREAS, In his spare time, Father Berrigan loved writing, especially poetry. He wrote
12 sixteen books of poetry and essays. He was loved and adored by his family and his many friends
13 and supporters. Soon after he passed, his family officially stated, "Dan taught us that every person
14 is a miracle, every person has a story, every person is worthy of respect... and we are so aware of
15 all he did and all he was and all he created in almost 95 years of life lived with enthusiasm,
16 commitment, seriousness and almost holy humor"; now, therefore be it

17 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives hereby expresses its condolences on the
18 passing of Father Daniel Joseph Berrigan, S.J.; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
20 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the Berrigan Family.

=====
LC005900
=====