

2017 -- H 6273

LC002787

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017

HOUSE RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF THE HONORABLE ARTHUR N. VOTOLATO

Introduced By: Representatives Mattiello, McEntee, Shekarchi, Solomon, and Craven

Date Introduced: May 31, 2017

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, It is with deep sadness and regret that this House has learned of the passing
2 of retired Judge Arthur N. Votolato, beloved father of Dacia and Hera Votolato, and Rhode
3 Island's first and the country's longest-serving United States Bankruptcy Court judge; and

4 WHEREAS, Born in Providence, Arthur Votolato was the son of the late Arthur Votolato
5 and Mary Tavani, and the brother of Gregory Votolato and Dolores Barchi. He earned his
6 Bachelor's degree from the University of Rhode Island and his Juris Doctor from Boston
7 University School of Law; and

8 WHEREAS, In 1956, Judge Votolato was sworn into the Rhode Island Bar and over the
9 next five years, practiced law with his father. He subsequently went on to become the Freeway
10 Property Acquisition Coordinator for the Department of Transportation and served as Chief
11 Special Counsel to the Rhode Island Department of Public Works. In addition, he served on the
12 First Circuit Bankruptcy Appellate Panel for Massachusetts and Maine, and from 1996 until his
13 passing, had served as Chief Judge of the First Circuit Bankruptcy Appellate Panel; and

14 WHEREAS, From 1968 until August of 2012, Judge Votolato presided over the U.S.
15 Bankruptcy Court for the District of Rhode Island in Providence. Described as a "people's
16 judge", he dispensed with the usual judge's robe as well as the "All Rise" courtroom formality and
17 instead asked litigators and participants to remain seated. Throughout his tenure on the bench, he
18 extended his full attention and always treated those around him and in his courtroom with
19 manners and respect. At the time of his retirement, the courtroom in which he had spent more

1 than three decades of his career, was dedicated in his name; and

2 WHEREAS, Judge Votolato amassed numerous professional distinctions during the
3 course of his illustrious career. He had recently been inducted into the Rhode Island Hall of Fame
4 and had previously been honored with the Recognition Award from the Rhode Island Bar
5 Association, and the Award to Distinguished Bankruptcy Judges from the National Conference of
6 Bankruptcy Judges. He had also been an Adjunct Professor at Roger Williams College for a
7 number of years, and had been the author of myriad legal reviews and opinions; and

8 WHEREAS, Judge Votolato was a proud and devoted father to his two daughters, who
9 were unquestionably the loves of his life. For many years, he also enjoyed flying his airplane and
10 would oftentimes invite friends to join him on his adventures. He possessed a brilliant mind, and
11 a fair and magnanimous spirit, and he will be profoundly missed by those who had the good
12 fortune to be a part of his vital and fulfilling life; 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 personal sympathies to the family of the
15 Honorable Arthur N. Votolato. He will forever be remembered by the entire membership and the
16 citizens of this State as a highly respected and admired judge who presided with fairness and
17 justice over the matters before the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Rhode Island; and be
18 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 Dacia Votolato and Hera Votolato.

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