

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017

SENATE RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES TO THE HALEY AND WILLIAMS FAMILIES
ON THE PASSING OF JEAN HALEY AND MARTHA WILLIAMS

Introduced By: Senators Coyne, and Conley

Date Introduced: March 23, 2017

Referred To: Placed on the Senate Consent Calendar

1 WHEREAS, Rhode Island citizens were shocked and struck with overwhelming grief
2 when they learned of the tragic passing of twin sisters Jean Haley and Martha Williams on
3 Saturday, March 4, 2017. They will be sorely missed by their families and friends, but will live
4 on eternally in the hearts of all who knew and loved them; and

5 WHEREAS, Martha Young Williams was born on November 3, 1919, entering the world
6 ten minutes ahead of her twin sister Jean. Both were daughters of the late L. Douglas Young and
7 Louise Young. Martha attended Hope High School in Providence and then Lincoln School in
8 Providence, graduating in 1939. She attended Bradford College where she played tennis, was in
9 the glee club, and performed modern dance, but unfortunately had to give up dance and tennis
10 due to having a rheumatic heart; and

11 WHEREAS, Martha, after college, attended the Katherine Gibbs Secretarial School and
12 became engaged to Charles Roger Williams, Jr., whom she married one year later and remained
13 married to for sixty-one years until his passing. He was a member of the Air Force at that time
14 serving our nation overseas in World War II. When he returned home, they moved to Vermont
15 before they settled in Rhode Island to raise their three children. Martha was a member of the
16 Junior Women's Club, served on various civic committees, and was an active member of the
17 Barrington Women's Republican Club; and

18 WHEREAS, Jean Young Haley was also born on November 3, 1919, the fraternal sister
19 of Martha Young Williams. Jean was a graduate of Hope High School and attended the Rhode

1 Island School of Design. She was also a graduate of the Katherine Gibbs Secretarial School. She
2 was the beloved wife of the late John W. Haley, Jr., and was a devoted mother to her children.
3 She loved to read, do the daily crossword puzzle, and take long drives in her Cadillac, often
4 visiting the local Dunkin Donuts and Newport Creamery establishments; and

5 WHEREAS, Martha Young Williams and her sister Jean Young Haley were inseparable
6 throughout their ninety-seven years of life. They were beloved figures in the Bristol and East Bay
7 community who could be seen frequently taking leisurely drives around town and frequenting
8 their favorite dining places such as Eats Restaurant in Seekonk, the Lobster Pot and Redlefsen's
9 Rotisserie in Bristol. Martha and Jean never failed to make quite the impression with restaurant
10 staff members with their charming chatter and friendly demeanor. They were members of the
11 Barrington Yacht Club and enjoyed boating around Narragansett Bay, Block Island, Martha's
12 Vineyard and Nantucket. They were an irreplaceable part of the East Bay community and will be
13 sorely missed by all who knew them; and

14 WHEREAS, Perhaps the ultimate measure of the value of a person is the impact they
15 made on the lives of those closest to them. Martha and Jean were the heart, soul and anchor of
16 their families and they will live on forever in the memories of their loved ones. Perhaps Nate
17 Haley, grandson of Martha, summed it up best about these two wonderful women when he stated
18 that "These two women are the epitome of the 'right way' to live your life. They made everyone
19 that they met feel special, and truly connected with those that were lucky enough to have the
20 courses of their lives intersect. I will forever live my life in a way that emulates their spirit,
21 character, vigor, and never-ending drive for happiness"; and

22 WHEREAS, Martha Young Williams was predeceased by her husband, Charles Roger
23 Williams, Jr. She leaves behind her three children, Susan, Douglas and Charles. She also leaves
24 behind her daughter-in-law Terri Pound Williams, her five grandchildren Maxwell Charles,
25 Nicholas Douglas, Charles Edward, Ethan Douglas, Connor Young, her step-grandchildren, and
26 great-granddaughter Breanna Williams; and

27 WHEREAS, Jean Young Haley was predeceased by her husband, John W. Haley, Jr. She
28 leaves behind her three sons, William D. Haley and his wife, Suzanne, John W. Haley III and his
29 wife, Jessica, and Dwight R. Haley and his wife, Jocelyn. She also leaves behind her
30 grandchildren, Pasha Superbie and her husband, Pietro, Sarah Robinson and her husband,
31 Derrick, Robert Haley, Jaclyn Haley Daigneault and her husband, Michael, and Nathan Haley.
32 She also leaves behind her six great-grandchildren, her sister, Mary; now, therefore be it

33 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island hereby extends its deepest
34 condolences to the Williams and Haley Families on the passing of Martha Young Williams and

1 Jean Young Haley; and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
3 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Families of Martha Young Williams and
4 Jean Young Haley.

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