

2018 -- H 8186

LC005674

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2018

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

**EXTENDING CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF FORMER RHODE ISLAND STATE
REPRESENTATIVE DR. ZYGMUNT J. FRIEDEMANN**

Introduced By: Representatives Mattiello, Shekarchi, Solomon, McNamara, and Bennett

Date Introduced: May 10, 2018

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, It is with profound sadness and regret that this House has learned of the
2 passing of former State Representative, Dr. Zygmunt J. Friedemann, the beloved husband for
3 almost seventy-one years to Ruth, and devoted father of Gail Weisberger and her husband, J.
4 Robert, and Glenn Friedemann and his wife, Merrill. He was the very proud Papa of Alex
5 Friedemann, Katie Friedemann, Justin Weisberger and his wife, Marinela, and Joseph Weisberger
6 and his fiancé, Katelyn, and had enjoyed a special bond with Izzy; and

7 WHEREAS, Zygmunt Friedemann, better known as "Ziggy" to his family and many
8 friends, was born in Krakow, Poland, the son of Leon and Lila Friedemann. As a young child, his
9 life was idyllic, but when the Nazis invaded Poland, the life as he had known ended. He joined
10 and fought with the Polish Underground until his capture, ultimately surviving the torture and
11 atrocities of two concentration camps; and

12 WHEREAS, Ziggy met the love of his life, Ruth, while working for the United States
13 Army at the end of World War II. He served as an interpreter and liaison, helping to relocate
14 some 80,000 other freed refugees; and

15 WHEREAS, Ziggy and Ruth emigrated from Poland to the United States in 1948. While
16 working long hours to support his family, he earned his Bachelor's degree from Boston
17 University. Continuing his education, he obtained his Masters from Brown, and ultimately
18 received his Ph.D. from Harvard University. From 1956 until his retirement in 1990, he taught
19 political science at Providence College, where he served as Chair of the department and was

1 honored with the Distinguished Faculty Award; and

2 WHEREAS, In November of 1974, Dr. Friedemann was elected to the Rhode Island
3 House of Representatives, serving the people of Warwick for eight terms until the end of 1990.
4 Earning the respect of his fellow Representatives, he was named House Deputy Majority Leader,
5 and played a major role in establishing Rhode Island's emergency 9-1-1 system; and

6 WHEREAS, Dr. Friedemann left a request to his loved ones that his epitaph would read,
7 "I love my family, I love my adopted country and I love my students." He was an honest and
8 steadfast gentleman, who enriched the lives of all who knew him and left the world a far better
9 place because of his life's endeavors; now, therefore be it

10 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
11 Providence Plantations hereby express our deepest sympathies to the Friedemann Family on the
12 passing of Dr. Zygmunt J. Friedemann. May his memory be a blessing; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
14 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Mrs. Ruth Friedemann and Family.

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