

2019 -- H 6246

LC002892

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019

HOUSE RESOLUTION

EXTENDING PROFOUND SYMPATHY ON THE PASSING OF JIM TARICANI

Introduced By: Representatives Mattiello, Shekarchi, Filippi, Blazejewski, and Ucci

Date Introduced: June 24, 2019

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, It is with great sadness that this House has learned of the passing of Jim
2 Taricani, a legendary Rhode Island investigative reporter, and a devoted husband to the love of
3 his life, Laurie White-Taricani; and

4 WHEREAS, Born in Newington, Connecticut, Mr. Taricani served in the United States
5 Air Force after graduating high school. He had dreams of becoming a musician but developed an
6 interest in journalism while attending Central Connecticut State College, and in 1968, received a
7 Presidential letter of commendation for helping secure the transfer of Martin Luther King Jr.'s
8 assassin; and

9 WHEREAS, In 1974, Mr. Taricani joined the staff at radio station WKRI in West
10 Warwick, where his listeners knew him as Jim Roberts because his boss had told him that the
11 name Taricani sounded too ethnic. In 1978, he moved to television with station WPRI 12 and
12 reclaimed his name; and

13 WHEREAS, The following year, Mr. Taricani moved to WJAR, where he co-founded the
14 station's I-Team, and with the exception of a brief one and a half year respite as Press Secretary to
15 then-Governor Lincoln Almond, he worked at WJAR until his retirement from news in 2014; and

16 WHEREAS, While he frequently made headlines, Mr. Taricani's journalistic integrity
17 became legendary when in 2004, a federal judge convicted him of criminal contempt for refusing
18 to reveal the source who had given him an FBI surveillance tape showing a top lieutenant to then-
19 Mayor Vincent "Buddy" Cianci, Jr. accepting an envelope containing a cash bribe; and

20 WHEREAS, Revered by his peers as well as his readers, Mr. Taricani was honored with

1 five regional Emmy awards as well as an Edward R. Murrow award for investigative journalism.
2 He was also the recipient of an honorary degree from the University of Rhode Island in 2018, and
3 to honor his memory, a lecture series on First Amendment Rights is being established at the
4 University of Rhode Island; and

5 WHEREAS, From a small West Warwick radio newsman to becoming one of Rhode
6 Island's most prominent and respected journalists, Jim Taricani's journalistic and investigative
7 career is indelibly imprinted in the hearts and minds of generations of Rhode Islanders and he will
8 be dearly missed; now, therefore be it

9 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
10 Providence Plantations hereby extends deepest condolences on the passing of Jim Taricani; and
11 be it further

12 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
13 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Laurie White-Taricani.

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