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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019

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SENATE RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES TO THE NOEL FAMILY ON THE PASSING OF  
JOYCE A. NOEL

Introduced By: Senators Lynch Prata, Conley, McCaffrey, Goodwin, and McKenney

Date Introduced: March 12, 2019

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, It is with utmost sadness that this Senate has learned of the passing of Joyce  
2 A. Noel, the beloved wife of the Honorable Governor Philip W. Noel, on February 13, 2019 in  
3 Estero, Florida; and

4 WHEREAS, Mrs. Noel was born in Providence, the daughter of Walter and Genevieve  
5 Sandberg. Long known for her gracefulness and beauty, Mrs. Noel won the Miss Rhode Island  
6 Pageant in 1953 and was a contestant in the Miss America Pageant. She later became Miss Rhode  
7 Island USA and participated in the 1954 Miss USA Pageant; and

8 WHEREAS, On October 20, 1956, Mrs. Noel married the Honorable Philip Noel and  
9 together they raised a family and she supported her husband's professional and public service  
10 career. She was widely credited with playing a significant role in his successful political career  
11 and served our state with class and distinction as Rhode Island's First Lady from 1973 to 1977;  
12 and

13 WHEREAS, In addition to providing a warm, loving and nurturing home for her husband  
14 and children, Mrs. Noel was a woman of great faith and someone who contributed much to her  
15 community and state. She was an active parishioner of Saint Kevin Church in Warwick, and Our  
16 Lady of Light Catholic Community in Fort Myers, Florida. She was also a member of the  
17 Warwick Country Club and the Wildcat Run Country Club in Estero, Florida; and

18 WHEREAS, In her spare time, Mrs. Noel loved spending time with her family, and  
19 cooking, baking and entertaining for her loved ones and friends. She was a woman who made an

1 indelible impression in the hearts of her family and friends and will long be remembered by  
2 Rhode Islanders for her charm, elegance, wit, and devoted service to the citizens of our state; and

3 WHEREAS, Mrs. Noel leaves behind her husband, the Honorable Governor Philip W.  
4 Noel, and her children, Linda J. Hirst, Lori A. Noel, Joanne N. Listro, and Joseph W. Noel. She  
5 also leaves behind eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by her  
6 son, Thomas P. Noel; now, therefore be it

7 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
8 hereby expresses its deepest condolences to the Noel family on the passing of former Rhode  
9 Island First Lady, Joyce A. Noel; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
11 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the Honorable Governor Philip W. Noel.

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