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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019

SENATE RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF DAVID P. LEYS

Introduced By: Senator Dawn M. Euer

Date Introduced: April 04, 2019

Referred To: Placed on the Senate Consent Calendar

1 WHEREAS, David Price Leys, known to family and friends as “Bud” passed away on
2 April 2, 2019. He was the beloved husband of Judy for 67 years; and

3 WHEREAS, Mr. Leys was born in Newport, on July 14, 1930, a son of William and
4 Aline Leys. He attended Newport schools and graduated from Rogers High School in 1947. An
5 accomplished athlete, he played on his high school basketball and tennis teams. He was also a
6 member of the Hilton Athletic Club. Mr. Leys continued his education at Brown University,
7 graduating in 1951; and

8 WHEREAS, After graduating from college, Mr. Leys returned to Newport and embarked
9 on a distinguished professional career for more than fifty years as the President and owner of
10 Leys Century Store, a family business begun by his father in 1912; and

11 WHEREAS, Known for his business acumen, his vigorous support of downtown
12 Newport and his many years of service to the entire community, Mr. Leys leaves a legacy of
13 distinguished achievement that will be long remembered; and

14 WHEREAS, Mr. Leys had a long association with BankNewport, serving as President
15 and Chairman of the Board of Trustees. He also served on the Board of Trustees and as the
16 interim CEO of the Preservation Society of Newport County and as the President of the Newport
17 County Chamber of Commerce. Throughout the years, he served the Newport community with
18 tireless energy in a host of other positions including leading the Newport Downtown Merchants
19 Decoration Committee, and being the longest serving volunteer fireman on the Newport Fire
20 department, serving with distinction for more than fifty years. Most recently, he helped to re-

1 establish the Newport Fireman’s Relief Association; and

2 WHEREAS, Mr. Leys received numerous awards honoring him for his service to the
3 community and his many charitable endeavors including the Newport Daily News Community
4 Service Award in 2007 and the statewide Jefferson Award for volunteer service from WJAR
5 Channel 10 in 2017; and

6 WHEREAS, Mr. Leys was devoted to his faith and was a lifelong parishioner of St.
7 Mary’s Church in Newport. He married his wife Judy at the church in 1952, and they attended
8 Mass together every Sunday. Mr. Leys also served as a Trustee for the church and helped them
9 raise \$2.5 million for a restoration project; and

10 WHEREAS, In his free time, Mr. Leys enjoyed spending time with his family and
11 playing tennis with his Friday night tennis group. He was also a member of the Newport Yacht
12 Club and loved sailing on the “Buwi”, the boat he shared with his brother Bill. An avid
13 conservationist, Mr. Leys had a passion for weather patterns and his forecasting was second to
14 none. This passion of his was so intense that he would begin his daily diary writing, something he
15 did and kept since the age of ten, with a written record of the day’s weather; and

16 WHEREAS, Mr. Leys was a beloved figure within the Newport community who will be
17 sorely missed by his family, friends and all who knew him. The reverence and regard in which he
18 was and is held speaks volumes about the kind of man that he was; and

19 WHEREAS, Mr. Leys is survived by his six children, Ellen Leys and her husband, Dave
20 Raboy, Kevin Leys and his wife, Midge, Paul Leys and his wife, Mardie Corcoran, Beth Leys,
21 Andrew Leys and his wife, Susan, and John Leys. He is also survived by his fifteen grandchildren
22 and his brother Bill Leys. Mr. Leys was predeceased by his son David Leys, Jr., and his sister,
23 Jean; now, therefore be it

24 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
25 hereby expresses its condolences on the passing of David P. Leys; and be it further

26 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
27 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to Ellen Leys, Kevin Leys, Paul Leys, Beth Leys,
28 Andrew Leys, and John Leys.

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