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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019

SENATE RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF ROBERT ROSE, FORMER POLICE
CHIEF OF BLOCK ISLAND

Introduced By: Senator V. Susan Sosnowski

Date Introduced: June 05, 2019

Referred To: Placed on the Senate Consent Calendar

1 WHEREAS, Mr. Robert "Bobby" Rose, a beloved fixture within the Block Island
2 community and the former Police Chief of Block Island, passed away on May 17, 2019. He was
3 the loving husband of Judith Bonanno Rose; and

4 WHEREAS, Mr. Rose was born on October 28, 1940, a son of the late Cornelius and
5 Marion Rose. He was a life-long Block Island resident and was a descendent of Tormut Rose, one
6 of the original 1661 settlers of Block Island. He had been raised on a farm, which instilled into
7 him a tireless work ethic, a trait for which he was known for his entire life; and

8 WHEREAS, Mr. Rose graduated from Block Island School in 1959, and shortly
9 thereafter began working for the Block Island Power Company. In 1962, he joined the United
10 States Air Force and served our nation with honor and integrity. He rose to the rank of Sergeant,
11 was awarded the Airman of the Month Award, and served as the head of the liquid oxygen
12 missile support plant on Johnston Atoll in the Pacific during the Vietnam War; and

13 WHEREAS, After leaving military service and receiving his Honorable Discharge, Mr.
14 Rose married the love of his life, his wife Judith, and together they raised a family. From 1967 to
15 1970, he served as the Police Chief of Block Island where he was, at age 27, the youngest Police
16 Chief in the State of Rhode Island. In recognition of his exemplary service as Police Chief, he
17 earned the much loved moniker of "Chief", an honorary term by which he was known for the rest
18 of his life; and

19 WHEREAS, Mr. Rose was also an avid and talented home builder. In 1972, he

1 established "Rose Enterprises" and through the years, he designed and built more than 100
2 custom homes. Additionally, he constructed numerous important commercial buildings including
3 The Island Free Library, the Block Island Medical Center, Ballard's Inn, The Overlook, The Rose
4 Farm Inn, and Payne's Harbor View Inn; and

5 WHEREAS, Mr. Rose and his wife developed their family farm into the present-day
6 Rose Farm Inn, where they preserved the rolling hills of the farm as open space for everyone in
7 the community to enjoy. Throughout his entire life, Mr. Rose was dedicated and devoted to his
8 beloved community of Block Island and would do anything necessary to protect and nurture its
9 natural wonders and to help those living there to be safe and to prosper; and

10 WHEREAS, In addition to his wife, Mr. Rose leaves behind his three children, Robert
11 Rose, Jamie Rose and her husband, Peter Helstrom, and William Rose and his wife, Lisa, and
12 their three children, Justin, Chad and Cassie. He also leaves behind his granddaughter, Brenna
13 Rose, his brother, Lawrence Rose, and his sister, Janice Burke. He was predeceased by his infant
14 daughter, Johanna, his infant brother, William, and Brandon Hetherington; and

15 WHEREAS, Mr. Rose will be long remembered for his service to our nation and the
16 community of Block Island. He was a devoted family man and a caring friend, and his loss is
17 grievous but he will live on forever in the hearts and minds of all who knew and loved him; now,
18 therefore be it

19 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
20 hereby expresses its condolences to the Rose Family on the passing of Robert Rose; and be it
21 further

22 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
23 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Mrs. Judith Bonanno Rose and Family.

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