

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019

SENATE RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF ALLEN R. "AL" SOUTHWICK

Introduced By: Senators Sheehan, Valverde, Sosnowski, Crowley, and Quezada

Date Introduced: June 12, 2019

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, Al Southwick, known by his many friends as "Uncle Al" passed away on
2 June 4, 2019. Mr. Southwick was born in Browerville, Minnesota, a son of the late Thomas and
3 Emma Southwick. He was a long-time resident of North Kingstown and a beloved fixture within
4 the community and the Town's Recreation Department for which he worked for forty years,
5 including nineteen as director; and

6 WHEREAS, Mr. Southwick was born to a military family in Minnesota, and was a self-
7 described Marine brat as a youngster as he and his family moved to numerous places including
8 California, North Carolina and Maine, before they settled down in North Kingstown; and

9 WHEREAS, Mr. Southwick was a star baseball player in high school, playing every
10 position but catcher. He was so talented, he even received a tryout with the New York Yankees in
11 1964. Since those early days, he has remained active in athletics, playing pick-up basketball
12 games and participating in local baseball and basketball leagues, including coaching a Babe Ruth
13 League team in the 1960's and being elected President of the League in 1967; and

14 WHEREAS, In December of 1974, Mr. Southwick was hired to serve as the North
15 Kingstown Program Coordinator for the Recreation Department, and through the years served as
16 an instructor, coach, bus driver, beloved "uncle" to many youngsters, and worked tirelessly
17 behind the scenes to register kids for events, to find coaches and craft schedules. More
18 importantly, he was beloved for his gregarious nature and seemingly limitless energy and
19 enthusiasm for helping kids and serving the community; and

20 WHEREAS, Mr. Southwick was also well-known for the colorful vehicles he drove in

1 the performance of his duties. Most famous was the recreation department's "Big Blue Bus" that
2 he drove for decades as he chaperoned the town's children to and from an assortment of athletic
3 activities including baseball games, gymnastics programs, and roller skating. He also drove a
4 second "flashy" vehicle for the recreation department, a yellow four-door, military-looking
5 convertible Volkswagon Type 181, known by all simply as "The Thing."; and

6 WHEREAS, Mr. Southwick leaves behind his brothers, John Southwick and his wife,
7 Alma Gay, and Lynnwood Southwick. He also leaves behind many nieces, nephews and cousins;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Mr. Southwick's passing is a grievous loss for his family, many friends, and
10 the North Kingstown community. Mr. Southwick leaves behind a legacy of service that will be
11 long-remembered by all who knew and loved him; now, therefore be it

12 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
13 hereby expresses its deepest condolences on the passing of Mr. Al Southwick; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
15 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to John Southwick, Lynnwood Southwick and
16 North Kingstown Recreation Department.

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