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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2020

H O U S E R E S O L U T I O N

**EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF RETIRED BRISTOL POLICE CHIEF
RUSSELL SERPA**

Introduced By: Representatives Speakman, Donovan, Hull, Johnston, and Canario

Date Introduced: February 04, 2020

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, Russell “Rusty” Serpa, retired Chief Bristol Police Department, passed
2 away on January 31, 2020. He was born in Fall River, Massachusetts, and was the devoted
3 husband of Lydia for forty-one years, and the son of the late Joseph and Virginia Serpa; and

4 WHEREAS, Russell Serpa was a Sergeant in the United States Army who served our
5 nation with honor from 1965 to 1966 in Vietnam; and

6 WHEREAS, After leaving military service, Chief Serpa joined the Bristol Police
7 Department and served the Town with integrity and distinction for thirty-nine years, including
8 twelve as Police Chief. Amongst his many outstanding achievements as Police Chief, his greatest
9 accomplishment was providing the leadership, direction and supervision that brought the Bristol
10 Police Department in sync with the highest professional standards and obtaining accreditation
11 from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA); and

12 WHEREAS, Chief Serpa attained a Bachelor of Science degree in Law Enforcement and
13 a Master’s degree in Business from Salve Regina College. He also attended the elite FBI National
14 Academy, Command Level Leadership Program in 1989, and the FBI Law Enforcement
15 Executive Development Association; and

16 WHEREAS, Chief Serpa served as the President of the Rhode Island Police Chief’s
17 Association in 2005, and as the President of both the Rhode Island Chapter and New England
18 Chapter of the FBI National Associates. He also served as a board member and President of the
19 Board of Directors for the East Bay Community Development Corporation, was a life member of

1 the Disabled American Veterans, a social member of the Bristol Fire Department (Hydraulions), a
2 member and past treasurer of the Elks, and, as a golfer, he was a member of the Montaup Country
3 Club; and

4 WHEREAS, In 2005, Chief Serpa had the high honor of being named the 220th Chief
5 Marshal of the Bristol Fourth of July Parade. He was also the Chief Marshal for the Memorial
6 Day Parade and the Bristol Recreation Children's Parade; and

7 WHEREAS, In addition to his wife, Lydia, Chief Serpa leaves behind his sons, Russell
8 Jr., and Christopher and his spouse, Alex, and his two granddaughters, Mila Mae and Rowan
9 Walker Serpa. He also leaves behind his brother, James and his wife, Sylvia, and was preceded in
10 death by his brother, Joseph and sister, Virginia; now, therefore be it

11 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
12 Providence Plantations hereby expresses its deepest condolences on the passing of retired Bristol
13 Police Chief Russell Serpa; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
15 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Mrs. Lydia Serpa and Family.

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