

2020 -- H 8073

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2020

HOUSE RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF THE HONORABLE DOROTHY B.
EDWARDS

Introduced By: Representatives Edwards, Canario, Donovan, Mattiello, and Shekarchi

Date Introduced: June 18, 2020

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, It is with great sadness that this House has learned of the passing of Dorothy
2 B. Edwards, the beloved wife of the late Edwin Edwards, Jr., cherished mother of Debbi Pappas,
3 Cindy Edwards, Gary Edwards, and E. Branford Edwards, and a highly respected former State
4 Representative and Town Councilor for Portsmouth; and

5 WHEREAS, Born in the City of Fall River, Mrs. Edwards was the daughter of George
6 and Esther Jackson; and

7 WHEREAS, In 1966, against the odds, Mrs. Edwards successfully ran for her first
8 political office, as State Representative for District 94, a seat she held for seven terms; and

9 WHEREAS, A staunch supporter of her District in Portsmouth, Representative Edwards
10 had “sponsored bills to study traffic patterns on the Mt. Hope Bridge, to authorize the town to
11 issue bonds for a new municipal complex, to establish a probate court, to resurface Park Avenue
12 (she lived in Island Park), to control subdivisions, to provide property tax exemptions for seniors
13 and veterans in Portsmouth, and more.” In addition, she was the prime sponsor on legislation
14 restoring the legal drinking age in the State back to 21 years old; and

15 WHEREAS, In 1980, Representative Edwards retired from the General Assembly, but
16 never one to remain idle, she ran and was elected to the Portsmouth Town Council, serving as its
17 President during her second term; and

18 WHEREAS, Upon her passing, the Town to which she gave so much of her life, honored
19 her memory and dedication with flags flown at half-mast; and

1 WHEREAS, The most fitting tribute to Dorothy Edwards is a celebration of her life, a
2 life in which each and every day was lived fully. She brightened and enriched the lives of many
3 and she will be dearly missed and forever remembered; now, therefore be it

4 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
5 Providence Plantations hereby extends its deepest condolences on the passing of the Honorable
6 Dorothy B. Edwards; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
8 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to Debbi Pappas, Cindy Edwards, Gary Edwards,
9 and E. Branford Edwards.

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