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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2020

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

EXTENDING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF IRWIN J. CHASE

Introduced By: Representatives McLaughlin, Ackerman, Marszalkowski, and Ajello

Date Introduced: June 18, 2020

Referred To: House read and passed

1           WHEREAS, It is with utmost sadness that this House has learned of the passing of Irwin  
2 Chase, beloved husband of Phyllis Chase for 59 wonderful years, devoted father of Michael  
3 Chase and Bradley Chase and his wife, Rebecca, and the doting grandfather of his beautiful  
4 granddaughters Lauren, Madeline, Hannah, and Julia; and

5           WHEREAS, Mr. Chase was born in Providence, the eldest son of the late Martin and  
6 Helen Chase, the brother of Samuel Chase and his wife, Eszter, Marjorie Torgan and her  
7 husband, Philip, and the brother-in-law of Ruthie Steinberg, and the late L. Saul Alpert and  
8 Edward Steinberg; and

9           WHEREAS, At the age of eighteen, after graduating from Hope High School, Mr. Chase  
10 enlisted and served with honor in the United States Army during World War II. His company had  
11 been involved in the liberation of the Mauthausen concentration camp, and he was awarded a  
12 Combat Infantryman Badge and a Bronze Star; and

13           WHEREAS, Upon his return from service, Mr. Chase graduated from Brown University  
14 and joined his father in the family ribbon-making operation. As the business failed, Mr. Chase  
15 began selling surplus ribbon during the 1952 holiday season and thus began the emergence of the  
16 family's "new factory store with no frills and attractive discount prices" and in 1953, Ann &  
17 Hope formally opened its doors; and

18           WHEREAS, Together, Irwin and his father expanded their business to include five new  
19 department stores. In 2001, with competition from national discount chains, the Chase's exited  
20 the department store business and once again successfully reinvented the company, opening nine

1 specialty curtain and bath outlets, five dollar stores, and six garden outlets; and

2 WHEREAS, First and foremost devoted to his family, Mr. Chase was also highly  
3 respected for his business acumen and had served on the board of directors of Rhode Island  
4 Hospital Trust Bank and the International Mass Retailing Association. In addition, he was a  
5 Rhode Island Commodore and had been inducted into the RI Heritage Hall of Fame in 2009; and

6 WHEREAS, Irwin Chase was a “kind, humble, and generous man” and he will be dearly  
7 missed by all who were fortunate to have been a part of his extraordinary life; now, therefore be it

8 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and  
9 Providence Plantations hereby extends deepest condolences on the passing of Irwin J. Chase.  
10 May his memory be for a blessing; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
12 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Mrs. Phyllis Chase and Family.

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