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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 W. EDWARD WOOD

Introduced By: Representatives Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Filippi, Kennedy, and Lima

Date Introduced: December 14, 2020

Referred To: Placed on the House Consent Calendar

1 WHEREAS, Ed Wood, a distinguished public servant who served our state with
2 distinction as Director of the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management and
3 Department of Transportation, passed away on September 15, 2020. He was a resident of
4 Hopkinton; and

5 WHEREAS, Mr. Wood was born in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, Canada, and raised in the
6 Detroit Metropolitan area. He attained a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from the
7 University of Michigan, and upon graduation in 1962, he joined the United States Marine Corps
8 and served our nation with courage and integrity as a Captain for thirteen months in Vietnam; and

9 WHEREAS, After completing his military service, Mr. Wood returned to the University
10 of Michigan and earned a Master's degree in Japanese Studies. He proceeded to become a
11 newspaper reporter, starting with the Associated Press in Indiana where he covered the civil
12 rights movement before taking a position with the Providence Journal; and

13 WHEREAS, In 1975, Mr. Wood began his exemplary public service career as the
14 Assistant Director of the Public Utilities Commission. Two years later, he joined the Department
15 of Natural Resources where he played a vital role and earned plaudits for transforming a once
16 troubled department into a new, more vigorous environmental agency; and

17 WHEREAS, In 1977, Mr. Wood was appointed to the position of Director of the Rhode
18 Island Department of Environmental Management by Governor Garrahy, a position he held for
19 five years before being appointed Director of the Department of Transportation. He played a
20 leading role in moving the Woonasquatucket and Moshassuck rivers, and helping to remake

1 downtown Providence; and

2 WHEREAS, Thanks to his tireless work ethic, strong leadership abilities, and diverse
3 array of skills, Mr. Wood also served in a panoply of other vital positions. He served as Governor
4 Sundlun's Chief of Staff in the early 1990s, as the head of a cable television company in the
5 Midwest, and as a consultant to Ira Magaziner. In 2001, he was tapped to lead all operations for
6 the Clinton Health Access Initiative, a position he held for a decade and during which time,
7 numerous offices were opened across the continent of Africa savings thousands of lives; and

8 WHEREAS, Since his retirement in 2011, Mr. Wood remained active in civic affairs,
9 particularly with the Hopkinton Land Trust and the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association,
10 which he founded. He also loved to travel and had visited every state but North Dakota, as well
11 as more than seventy-five countries; and

12 WHEREAS, Mr. Wood was the loving husband of Linda Wood for fifty-seven years, the
13 father of Erika and Dan, the grandfather of Kiles, Ayah and Kamil, and the brother of William
14 Wood; now, therefore be it

15 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
16 expresses its deepest condolences to the Wood Family on the passing of Ed Wood; and be it
17 further

18 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
19 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Linda Wood and Family.

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