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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2020

SENATE RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF BARRY JOHN RICCI
WHO WAS THE DISTINGUISHED SUPERINTENDENT OF THE CHARIHO REGIONAL
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Introduced By: Senators Morgan, Rogers, Algieri, Raptakis, and Ruggerio

Date Introduced: January 29, 2020

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, Barry John Ricci, the highly respected Superintendent of the Chariho
2 Regional School District, passed away on December 22, 2019, after a courageous fight with
3 cancer. A resident of Foster, Mr. Ricci was the beloved husband of Lisa Ricci for thirty-five
4 years; and

5 WHEREAS, Mr. Ricci was born in Providence, raised in North Providence and attended
6 public schools in North Providence. He attained a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary
7 Education from Rhode Island College and a Master's degree in Elementary School
8 Administration from Providence College. He began his exemplary education career serving as a
9 teacher at St. Aloysius School in Greenville, then later at St. Augustine School in Providence. At
10 the young age of twenty-three, he became the Principal at St. Joseph's School in West Warwick;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Mr. Ricci started his public school career at Maisie E. Quinn School in West
13 Warwick, where he served as the Assistant Principal. He later served as the Principal of the
14 Western Coventry Elementary School for fourteen years; and

15 WHEREAS, In 2001, Mr. Ricci came to Chariho to serve as the Assistant Superintendent
16 before being named the Superintendent of the Chariho Regional School District in 2005. Over the
17 last fifteen years, Mr. Ricci has worked tirelessly to make the school district a place that met the
18 needs of the entire community, from students, parents and teachers to the hardworking taxpayers;
19 and

1 WHEREAS, Mr. Ricci was responsible for eight schools and 3,000 students. Under his
2 leadership, guidance and direction, Chariho was transformed into one of the top ten performing
3 school districts in Rhode Island and became a vibrant and innovative place to teach and learn. Mr.
4 Ricci raised academic standards by eliminating all classes that were below high school level
5 expectations, and added Advanced Placement courses; and

6 WHEREAS, Mr. Ricci’s other accomplishments were the completion of the renovations
7 of the Chariho campus in 2011, a project that had been languishing since 1992, and the
8 renovation of the Alternative Learning Academy in 2014. In 2018, in recognition of his numerous
9 achievements, Mr. Ricci was named the Superintendent of the Year by the Rhode Island
10 Superintendents Association. He was also a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and the best
11 friend anyone could have. Mr. Ricci was a communicant of Holy Apostles Church and served as a
12 Eucharistic Minister; and

13 WHEREAS, Mr. Ricci never stopped fighting for his school community, even while
14 fighting his cancer. He stayed in contact with Legislators and State Officials even while preparing
15 for surgery, and literally called and emailed people from his hospital room. In the words of Rhode
16 Island Commissioner of Education, Angelica Infante-Green, Superintendent Ricci “never stopped
17 working for Chariho schools, and he will be dearly missed by all of us in education, in Chariho,
18 and across the State”; and

19 WHEREAS, Mr. Ricci, in addition to his wife Lisa Ricci, leaves behind his sons,
20 Christopher and his wife, Diana, and Michael and his wife, Jessica. He also leaves behind his
21 grandson Samuel John, his parents John V. and Evelyn Ricci, and was the brother of Debra Maio
22 and her husband, Michael. He was the son-in-law of Dick and Marie Mazzarella, and also leaves
23 behind his sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law, and numerous nephews and nieces; now, therefore
24 be it

25 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
26 hereby expresses its deepest condolences to the Ricci Family on the passing of Barry John Ricci;
27 and be it further

28 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
29 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Mrs. Lisa Ricci and Family.

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