

2021 -- H 6258

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF VARTAN GREGORIAN,  
NATIONALLY ACCLAIMED HISTORIAN AND PHILANTHROPIST

Introduced By: Representatives Kazarian, Blazejewski, Shekarchi, Filippi, Kislak,  
Shallcross Smith, Fellela, Fogarty, Speakman, and Ajello

Date Introduced: April 27, 2021

Referred To: House read and passed

1           WHEREAS, It is with utmost sadness that this House has learned of the passing of  
2 Vartan Gregorian, noted scholar and philanthropic leader, beloved husband of fifty-eight years to  
3 the late Clare Russell Gregorian, devoted father of Vahé Gregorian and his wife, Cindy, Raffi  
4 Gregorian, and Dareh Gregorian and his wife, Maggie, and the proud grandfather of Juan,  
5 Maximus, Sophie, Miri, and Dashiell; and

6           WHEREAS, Mr. Gregorian was born to Armenian parents in Tabriz, Iran, and was the  
7 brother of Ojik Arakelian. Although English-language limited, he immigrated to the United States  
8 in 1956 to study history and the humanities at Stanford University. His experiences and transition  
9 during these years became the foundation and inspiration for his life's work; and

10           WHEREAS, From 1981 to 1989, Mr. Gregorian served as President of the New York  
11 Public Library where he successfully revitalized and financially stabilized the institution. In  
12 1986, he was a member of the inaugural class of the Ellis Island Medal of Honor awardees, and  
13 from 1989 through 1997, he served as President of Brown University, where he was acclaimed  
14 for his efforts to strengthen research, teaching and public service activities at the University, as  
15 well as tripling its endowment; and

16           WHEREAS, Beginning in 1997, Mr. Gregorian led the Carnegie Corporation of New  
17 York where he was lauded as "a devoted and tireless leader an extraordinary champion of  
18 education, immigration, and international peace and security"; and

19           WHEREAS, Respected and revered for his myriad accomplishments, Mr. Gregorian was

1 a noted author, received dozens of honorary doctorates, and was hailed around the world as a  
2 historian and a philanthropist. He received awards from the French, Italian, Austrian, and  
3 Portuguese governments, and was the recipient of the National Humanities Medal in 1998, and  
4 the Presidential Medal of Freedom, our nation's highest civil award, in 2004. In addition, former  
5 New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg credited him with helping rebuild the city after the 9/11  
6 terrorist attacks; and

7 WHEREAS, Vartan Gregorian was a paradigm of the very best leadership and  
8 humanitarian qualities, and his immense intellect, generosity, wit and sense of humor, and his  
9 innate ability to encourage and challenge made him an unparalleled teacher, mentor, and  
10 inspiration for many, and he will be dearly missed; now, therefore be it

11 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby  
12 extends deepest condolences on the passing of Vartan Gregorian; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
14 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to Vahé Gregorian, Raffi Gregorian, and Dareh  
15 Gregorian.

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