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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

SENATE RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF MARY ANITA DEWITT

Introduced By: Senator Dawn M. Euer

Date Introduced: June 17, 2021

Referred To: Placed on the Senate Consent Calendar

1 WHEREAS, It is with deep sadness that this Senate has learned of the passing of Mary
2 Anita Dewitt, a lifelong resident of the City of Newport and the beloved mother of Gail DeWitt,
3 Fred DeWitt, Terri Lawrence, Ernest DeWitt, and Ronald DeWitt, and daughters-in-law Wanda
4 DeWitt and PJ DeWitt, and her bonus daughter Laurie Allan; and

5 WHEREAS, "Anita" as she was fondly called by her family and many friends was the
6 daughter of the late Mary Brookins and Ernest Weston, and the sister of Valerie Lee, with whom
7 she shared a very close relationship, and Kenneth Black, Edward Weston, and the late Charlotte
8 Weston Smith, and Michael Black. She was a graduate of Rogers High School, and received her
9 Associate's degree from Roger Williams Community College and her Bachelor of Science and
10 Master's degrees from Salve Regina University; and

11 WHEREAS, Mrs. Dewitt was the kind of grandmother that every child needs and
12 deserves. She was exceptionally proud of her seven grandchildren, who in return, loved her
13 dearly, and fondly called her Grandma or Two Shoes. She will also be deeply missed by her
14 thirteen great-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews; and

15 WHEREAS, For several years Mrs. Dewitt had been employed with the Newport
16 Telephone Company, Project Head Start, and Newport Martin Luther King Center. Most recently,
17 she had worked with the Newport School Department, where she served as Community Advisory
18 Specialist for twenty-one years, until her retirement; and

19 WHEREAS, Mrs. Dewitt was dedicated to her community and education. She had been a
20 member of numerous local and state organizations committed to inclusion and fairness for

1 minorities and the underserved in Newport, including the Aquidneck Island Minority Student
2 Scholarship and Mora Brown Hammonds Scholarship, Dr. Martin Luther King Center Board of
3 Directors, and the Early Childhood Development Advisory Committee, to name but a few; and

4 WHEREAS, Also devoted to her faith, Mrs. Dewitt was a member of the Community
5 Baptist Church where she was a member of CBC Sisterhood Ministry, had faithfully sent cards to
6 the sick and shut-in for many years, and was honored for her contributions to the children, the
7 homeless, and angel tree gift giving. In addition, she had been recognized for her community
8 service by the Cape Verdean American Association, and received the Jefferson Award and the
9 National Alliance of Businessmen Award; and

10 WHEREAS, Anita Dewitt loved her family, her community, and traveling, especially her
11 adventures with the Daisy Divas. She was a beautiful soul and special lady whose love, kindness,
12 and generosity will be forever remembered and dearly missed; now, therefore be it

13 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island hereby extends deepest
14 condolences on the passing of Mary Anita Dewitt; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
16 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to Gail DeWitt, Fred DeWitt, Terri Lawrence,
17 Ernest DeWitt, Ronald DeWitt, and Laurie Allan.

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