

2022 -- H 7149

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2022

HOUSE RESOLUTION

EXTENDING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF RITA MICHAELSON

Introduced By: Representatives Ajello, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Shallcross Smith, and Hull

Date Introduced: January 25, 2022

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, It is with deepest sadness that this House has learned of the passing of Rita
2 Michaelson, the beloved wife of the late Julius "Mike" Michaelson, former Rhode Island
3 Attorney General, and the cherished mother of Mark and Jeffrey Michaelson; and

4 WHEREAS, Mrs. Michaelson grew up in the City of Woonsocket, the daughter of the
5 late Hyman and Gertrude Caslowitz and the sister of Susan Green, and the late Arthur and Joel
6 Caslowitz. She is survived by her daughter-in-law, Karen, her beloved grandchildren, Kristen
7 and Graham, brother-in-law Ron, sister-in-law, Joyce Richard, sister-in-law Barbara d'Oliveira,
8 and many cousins, nieces, nephews; and

9 WHEREAS, Mrs. Michaelson attended Brown University, where she met, and shortly
10 after graduation married her husband, Julius. Together the two found a common purpose fighting
11 against discrimination and in support of civil rights and social justice, and helping those in need;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Mrs. Michaelson became active in numerous community groups including
14 Lippitt Hill Tutorial, the Women's Intergroup Committee, and a panoply of committees and
15 boards for religious, civil rights, women's rights, diversity and other causes. Her efforts and
16 dedication led to her appointment as a Commissioner on the R.I. Human Rights Commission as
17 well as serving seven years as a docent and lay lecturer at the RISD museum; and

18 WHEREAS, In addition, Mrs. Michaelson had worked for many years in the Admissions
19 Office of her alma mater, Brown University, and later as a Trustee and Trustee Emeritus, and as a
20 member of many of the University's committees. She was also an arbitrator for the Rhode Island

1 Supreme Court, on the Labor Panel of the American Arbitration Association, a member of
2 numerous additional arbitration panels, and was a co-founder of the Providence Community
3 Mediation Center. Her dedication to her many altruistic endeavors and social causes earned her
4 numerous honors and commendation throughout her lifetime; and

5 WHEREAS, As a young girl, Mrs. Michaelson had contracted polio which spurred her
6 father to encourage her to participate in sports in order to strengthen her muscles, and led to a love
7 for skiing, which she enjoyed with her family and friends until well into her 60's. She had also
8 enjoyed traveling with family and friends for many years; and

9 WHEREAS, Rita Michaelson was blessed with a large and loving immediate and
10 extended family, many devoted and lifelong friendships, and a broad array of interesting new-
11 found friends. She lived her life with purpose and grace and she is dearly missed by all who were
12 lucky enough to be a part of her inspiring story; now, therefore be it

13 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
14 extends deepest condolences on the passing of Rita Michaelson; 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 Mark Michaelson and Family, and Jeffrey
17 Michaelson and Family.

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