

2022 -- H 8262

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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 LIEUTENANT
COMMANDER BURL RICHARD PEGDEN, USN RET.

Introduced By: Representatives Craven, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Ackerman, McEntee,
Ruggiero, Kennedy, Diaz, Vella-Wilkinson, and Azzinaro

Date Introduced: May 18, 2022

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, It is with deep sadness that this House has learned of the passing of LCDR
2 Burl R. Pegden, USN Ret., the beloved husband of the late Laurette Ann Marie Pegden, and the
3 devoted father of two daughters, our friend and colleague, Susan Pegden, and her fiancé, Richard
4 Sweeney; and Sandra Schafer and her husband, Thomas Schafer. He was also the very proud
5 grandfather of Emily Horowitz and her fiancé, Michael Gaudreau; and Benjamin Schafer and
6 Sierra Schafer; and

7 WHEREAS, LCDR Pegden served our country for twenty-seven years, with honor and
8 valor, in the United States Navy, and had been deployed in both Korea and Vietnam. Over the
9 course of his decorated military career he had been a repair officer on swift boats and numerous
10 ships and had advanced through fifteen ranks, retiring as a Lieutenant Commander; and

11 WHEREAS, Dick, as he was known by all, and his wife travelled the country together,
12 from naval base to naval base, towing along two kids and their pet fish, turtles, frogs, hamsters
13 and dogs. No matter where they lived, their house was always a loving home; and

14 WHEREAS, When he was deployed overseas, Mr. Pegden would call home to his family
15 once a month, but as with all those whose loved ones serve far from home and in often dangerous
16 and difficult circumstances, his family at home worried and watched the nightly news for any
17 information, so his calls home always ended with a comforting "over and out"; and

18 WHEREAS, As tribute to the love and pride his family had for Mr. Pegden, his daughter
19 Sue's fiancé wrote a beautiful poem in his honor entitled "A Farewell to a Sailor" that reads:

1 Fair winds and following seas, a warm sun and gentle breeze,
2 Square the yard and make for home, back to your family, no more to roam.
3 Fair winds and following seas, a warm sun and gentle breeze,
4 Your duty finished, your day is done, steer your ship to the setting sun.
5 Fair winds and following seas, a warm sun and gentle breeze; and

6 WHEREAS, Our thoughts and hearts hold great empathy and sorrow for the family of
7 Burl Pegden and it is essential they know that we recognize that our freedom and human rights
8 were safeguarded by his service, "over and out"; now, therefore be it

9 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
10 extends deepest sympathy on the passing of LCDR Burl R. Pegden, USN Ret.; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
12 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to Susan Pegden and Family, and Sandra Schafer
13 and Family.

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