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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2022

SENATE RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF CHRISTINE DWYER
KAVANAGH, THE LONGTIME AND HIGHLY-REGARDED DIRECTOR OF THE
PERFORMING ARTS PROGRAM AT ST. MARY ACADEMY BAY VIEW

Introduced By: Senators F Lombardi, Coyne, and Lawson

Date Introduced: March 17, 2022

Referred To: Placed on the Senate Consent Calendar

1 WHEREAS, It is with utmost sadness that this Senate has learned of the passing of
2 Christine Dwyer Kavanagh, the beloved wife of Donald Kavanagh, cherished mother of Matthew
3 Kavanagh and his wife, Alexandra, and Patrick Kavanagh and his wife, Lindsay, and the doting
4 grandmother of Eloise Kavanagh; and

5 WHEREAS, Born in Cambridge, Massachusetts, Mrs. Kavanagh was a daughter of the
6 late Joseph and Margaret Dwyer, and the sister of the late Ann Maffry. In addition to her
7 immediate family, she is also survived by two nieces, Caroline and Alison; and

8 WHEREAS, Mrs. Kavanagh was a graduate from Rosary Academy, Manhattanville
9 College with a Bachelor's degree in Music Education, and Boston University where she earned a
10 Master's degree in Vocal Performance; and

11 WHEREAS, From 1975 through 1983, Mrs. Kavanagh taught music, choral, and theater
12 at St. Xavier Academy. In 1983, to the immense good fortune of the students at St. Mary
13 Academy Bay View, she joined the school's faculty and over the next thirty-nine years became an
14 invaluable asset and mentor as the caring Director of the Performing Arts program, teaching
15 music, choral, and theater to generations of students; and

16 WHEREAS, During her tenure at St. Mary's – Bay View, Mrs. Cavanagh had directed
17 award-winning cabaret-style performances that were renowned and performed both across New
18 England and internationally. She had received the St. Mary Academy Bay View Faculty
19 Catherine McAuley Award in 2003 for her ability to engender her students with the conviction

1 that their talents are God-given and that they "have an obligation to nurture and develop these
2 talents and share them with all humankind"; and

3 WHEREAS, Mrs. Cavanagh inspired her students to envision and develop their potential,
4 to have confidence in themselves and their abilities, and to believe in a future full of promise and
5 success not only on stage but in their future careers and in their family life; and

6 WHEREAS, In addition to her family and teaching, Mrs. Cavanagh was a communicant
7 of St. Luke Church in Barrington, a summer resident of Roy Carpenter's Beach in Matunuck, and
8 an avid reader, who loved music and Broadway musicals; and

9 WHEREAS, Christine Cananagh's passing is an "immense loss" to her family, friends
10 and the students at St. Mary Academy Bay View. She has inspired and touched the lives of so
11 many and she will be dearly missed; now, therefore be it

12 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island hereby extends deepest
13 sympathy on the passing of Christine Dwyer Kavanagh; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
15 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Mr. Donald Kavanagh and Family.

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