

2023 -- H 5026

LC000026

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2023

HOUSE RESOLUTION

EXTENDING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF CHRISTOPHER
THOMAS DIPAOLA

Introduced By: Representatives Kennedy, Azzinaro, Spears, Cotter, Blazejewski,
Shekarchi, Chippendale, Fenton-Fung, Shallcross Smith, and O'Brien
Date Introduced: January 10, 2023

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, It is with great sorrow that this House has learned of the passing of "the
2 voice of Westerly," Christopher DiPaola, the beloved husband of Laina, and the father of Haidan
3 and Stevie, and stepson, Adrian; and

4 WHEREAS, Born in Skowhegan, Maine, Chris, as he was known by family and friends,
5 was the son of Nadine and Thomas DiPaola, the brother of Jaime Wager and her husband,
6 Tristan, and the uncle of Sadie. In addition, he was blessed with a large and loving extended
7 family of aunts, uncles and cousins; and

8 WHEREAS, A lifelong resident of Westerly, Mr. DiPaola developed his passion for radio
9 at an early age listening to and admiring the on-air personalities on what was 66 WNBC in New
10 York. In pursuit of his dream, he grew into the "larger-than-life personality" "Crazy Chris" and
11 became the owner of the local radio station WBLQ AM/FM in Westerly as well as WWRI
12 AM/FM in West Warwick; and

13 WHEREAS, Devoted and active in the Westerly-Pawcatuck-Chariho communities, Mr.
14 DiPaola was a past president and current member of the Rotary Club of Westerly, the Ocean
15 Community Chamber of Commerce, and was past secretary of the Charlestown Chamber of
16 Commerce; and

17 WHEREAS, Described as the "heart and soul of the community," Mr. DiPaola provided
18 not only information but also comfort to many listeners during Superstorm Sandy, when many
19 lost power and had to rely on their battery-powered radios for information, and also during the

1 many months of isolation caused by the COVID pandemic; and

2 WHEREAS, Over the course of his lifetime, Mr. DiPaola was honored with myriad
3 awards for his commitment and "efforts to connect people during times of need" and for his
4 support for local nonprofits and businesses; and

5 WHEREAS, Chris DiPaola was a loving husband, father, friend, and true gentleman who
6 touched the lives of many and although he will no longer greet his fans on the 1230-AM radio
7 broadcast each morning, he will be forever in their hearts and memories; now, therefore be it

8 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
9 extends deepest condolences on the passing of Christopher DiPaola; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
11 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Mrs. Laina DiPaola and Family.

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