

2023 -- H 5155

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2023

H O U S E R E S O L U T I O N

EXPRESSING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF JOHN D. GLASHEEN

Introduced By: Representatives Tanzi, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale, McEntee, Henries, Kennedy, Edwards, Handy, and Ajello

Date Introduced: January 19, 2023

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, It is with deep sadness that this House has learned of the passing of John D.
2 Glasheen, a devoted husband, father, and a tireless advocate in support of social justice and
3 equality for all; and

4 WHEREAS, Mr. Glasheen grew up in Northampton, Massachusetts, a son of William
5 and Marion Glasheen. He attended and graduated from Deerfield Academy and Brown
6 University, where he played and starred in football; and

7 WHEREAS, Mr. Glasheen had a long and storied life as a community activist. He began
8 his public service career as a social studies teacher and football coach at Perkiomen School in
9 Pennsburg, Pennsylvania, and Mount Greylock Regional High School in Williamstown,
10 Massachusetts. He later worked as a textbook developer and promoted and promulgated
11 wholesale changes in how history is taught to students. He was a PhD student at Harvard
12 University and was a popular Brown University instructor who tirelessly strove to provide better
13 educational opportunities to disadvantaged students from urban schools; and

14 WHEREAS, Mr. Glasheen's community service career also included serving as the
15 former Executive Director of South County Community Action in the 1990s, where he led the
16 successful fight to build twenty units of affordable housing in Richmond, and his longtime
17 support of the Senior Agenda, where he served as Board Chair from 2012 to 2014; and

18 WHEREAS, Mr. Glasheen was a fixture at the State House, where he would be seen with
19 his fellow Unitarian Universalists activists fighting on behalf of social justice issues such as
20 affordable housing, sensible and reasonable gun regulations, and advocating in support of a

1 compassionate criminal justice and immigration system; and

2 WHEREAS, Mr. Glasheen also had a passion for live music, and enjoyed attending live
3 performances at the Met Café, Lupo's, and Nick-a-Nees in Providence, and more recently in
4 Newport and at the Peace Dale Pump House. He was an active member of the Unitarian
5 Universalist Church of South County, and was active in the men's group and spoke at many of
6 the Church's Martin Luther King birthday celebrations, particularly about his meeting with
7 Martin Luther King in 1967; and

8 WHEREAS, Mr. Glasheen leaves behind his wife of 31 years, Susan Strakosch, his
9 children, Leah Glasheen and her husband, Matthew MacWilliams, John Glasheen and his wife,
10 Jiva, and Megan Glasheen. He also leaves behind his grandchildren Patrick MacWilliams,
11 Benjamin MacWilliams and his wife, Emily Field, Allegra MacWilliams, Chitra Lehka Glasheen,
12 and Simone Liu, and his many nieces, nephews and close friends; now, therefore be it

13 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
14 expresses its deepest condolences on the passing of John D. Glasheen; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
16 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Susan Strakosch and Family.

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