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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

SENATE RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF THE HONORABLE FRANCIS R.
STETKIEWICZ

Introduced By: Senators Pearson, Picard, Felag, Lauria, Bissaillon, LaMountain, F.
Lombardi, Ciccone, Ujifusa, and Bell

Date Introduced: April 30, 2024

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, It is with deep sadness that this Senate has learned of the passing of the
2 Honorable Francis R. Stetkiewicz, former Mayor of the Town of Cumberland, and the beloved
3 husband of Paula Stetkiewicz for 66 years; and

4 WHEREAS, Mr. Stetkiewicz was the son of Helen and Joseph Stetkiewicz. He was
5 raised in a tenement house on Cowden Street in Central Falls, a child of the Great Depression.
6 Like most youngsters who grew up during those trying times, Mr. Stetkiewicz worked multiple
7 jobs to help support his family. This experience instilled Mr. Stetkiewicz with a strong work ethic
8 that stayed with him throughout his life; and

9 WHEREAS, After graduating from St. Raphael Academy in Pawtucket, Mr. Stetkiewicz
10 joined the United States Coast Guard, where he served with distinction as a radioman on PBY
11 flying boat flights and B-17 flights, performing search and rescue missions, delivering supplies
12 and tracking icebergs in the North Atlantic; and

13 WHEREAS, After completing his military obligations, Mr. Stetkiewicz returned home
14 and attended Providence College with help from the G.I. Bill, and by working nights and
15 weekends. He graduated from Providence College in 1958 with a degree in political science; and

16 WHEREAS, Upon graduating from college, Mr. Stetkiewicz began his professional
17 career in financial services working for Dun & Broadstreet. At the same time, he continued
18 serving the public. He and a group of fellow citizens established the Cumberland-Lincoln Boys
19 Club, (now the Boys and Girls Club of Northern Rhode Island) in 1961, where he served as Club

1 President in the early 1970s. In addition, he supported youth sports throughout his life; and

2 WHEREAS, In 1976, Mr. Stetkiewicz began his distinguished political career when he
3 ran for and won a seat on the Cumberland Town Council. Two years later, he won a special
4 election to serve as the Cumberland Town Administrator, a precursor to today's Office of Mayor.
5 He served as the Town of Cumberland's Town Administrator and later as Mayor for more than
6 twenty consecutive years, holding the honor of being the Town of Cumberland's last Town
7 Administrator and first Mayor; and

8 WHEREAS, As Mayor, Mr. Stetkiewicz was known for his tireless work ethic and
9 abiding integrity. He fought to keep property taxes low, launched one of the nation's first
10 recycling programs, and helped to establish the Sri Chimnoy Peace Bridge on Broad Street which
11 symbolically connected his two hometowns; and

12 WHEREAS, After retiring from elected office, Mr. Stetkiewicz worked for ten years for
13 the Central Falls City Housing Authority and later served as the Chairman of the committee that
14 started the process of unifying Cumberland's fire districts; and

15 WHEREAS, In addition to his wife, Paula, Mr. Stetkiewicz leaves behind his children,
16 Michael, Mark, Raymond, Christian and Ellen, as well as his eight grandchildren. He also leaves
17 behind his sister, Helen Mojkowski. He was preceded in passing by his brothers, Joseph Stett,
18 John Stetkiewicz and Robert Stevens; now, therefore be it

19 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island hereby expresses its deepest
20 condolences on the passing of the Honorable Francis R. Stetkiewicz; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
22 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Mrs. Paula Stetkiewicz and Family.

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