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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025

HOUSE RESOLUTION

EXTENDING CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF THE HONORABLE JOSEPH M.
LIMA

Introduced By: Representatives Noret, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale, Solomon,
Hull, Donovan, Craven, Fellela, and Cruz

Date Introduced: January 09, 2025

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, This House was deeply saddened to hear of the passing of the Honorable
2 Joseph Lima, the beloved husband of Teresa Lima for thirty-nine years, the devoted father of Lori
3 Medeiros and her husband, Fred, Wayne Lima, Lisa Speel and her husband, John, Soraya
4 Rodrigues and her fiancé, Shikenya, and Bruno Rodrigues, and the very proud grandfather of
5 eight grandchildren; and

6 WHEREAS, Born in Ponta Delgada, São Miguel, Azores, Mr. Lima was the son of the
7 late John and Armanda Silveira and the late Manuel Lima. At the age of thirteen, he immigrated
8 to the United States; and

9 WHEREAS, Hard-working and dedicated, Mr. Lima held many notable positions over
10 the course of his lifetime. He was employed in management at Davol Rubber Company, and later
11 worked at for-profit schools in sales positions, including serving as the Northeast Regional Sales
12 Director at an airline training school. Until his retirement, he had been employed as the Director
13 of Admissions and Corporate Training Coordinator at New England Tractor Trailer Training
14 School; and

15 WHEREAS, In November of 1976, the Honorable Joseph Lima was elected to the Rhode
16 Island House of Representatives, where he served from 1977 to 1984, representing neighborhoods
17 in the City of Providence. Earning the respect of his colleagues, he was named Deputy Majority
18 Leader, and was a member of the House Finance Committee, the House Education Committee,
19 and Corrections Sub-Committees; and

1 WHEREAS, During his tenure in the House, Mr. Lima successfully championed
2 legislation to eliminate the State’s tax on clothing and initiated the general public’s access to
3 House Committee meetings. In addition, he served as Chairman of the Legislative Commission
4 on English as a Second Language and introduced legislation creating the Portuguese Cultural
5 Foundation in Rhode Island. He was also the author of Peter Francisco Day in the State of Rhode
6 Island and served as the first President of the Dia de Portugal celebrations at the Rhode Island
7 State House in 1978; and

8 WHEREAS, Embracing the responsibility to give back to his heritage, Mr. Lima became
9 a prominent figure in the Portuguese-American community of Rhode Island, which ultimately
10 enriched the broader community. With vision and leadership, he established the Rhode Island
11 Day of Portugal and was the first President of the Rhode Island Day of Portugal celebrations at
12 the State House, where he remained an active board member and was honored as Grand Marshal
13 of the 40th celebration in 2017; and

14 WHEREAS, The Honorable Joe Lima is remembered as “a true statesman, gentleman,
15 and family man who was a community builder” and a remarkable man who helped to transform
16 our State through his distinguished public service. He leaves a legacy “of fostering unity, pride,
17 and cultural appreciation that will continue to inspire us all” and he is dearly missed; now,
18 therefore be it

19 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
20 extends heartfelt condolences on the passing of the Honorable Joseph M. Lima; 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 Teresa Lima and Family.

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