

2025 -- H 5094

=====
LC000012
=====

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025

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

EXTENDING CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF MARTIN E. COOPER

Introduced By: Representatives Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Kislak, Chippendale, Kazarian,
Craven, Ackerman, Fogarty, Kennedy, and Serpa

Date Introduced: January 21, 2025

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, It is with deepest sadness that this House has learned of the passing of
2 Martin E. Cooper, the beloved husband of Betsy Cooper for forty-five years, and the devoted
3 father of Rachel Cooper, Leah Pisari and her husband, Edward, and Ben Cooper and Dave
4 McKinney. He was also blessed with a beautiful granddaughter, Hannah; and

5 WHEREAS, Martin Cooper, better known as “Marty” to his family and many friends,
6 was born in Cleveland, Ohio, a son of the late Theodore and Hannah Cooper, and the brother of
7 Kenneth Cooper, Allen Cooper and his wife, Marcy, and the late Steven Cooper. Since 1986, he
8 had resided in North Kingstown; and

9 WHEREAS, A well-respected and admired gentleman, Mr. Cooper had previously been a
10 Marketing & Communications Director for the former American Insulated Wire Corp., and had
11 been the Community Relations Director for the Jewish Alliance for many years before retiring in
12 2017; and

13 WHEREAS, Mr. Cooper was a member of the Rhode Island Commission on Prejudice
14 and Bias and had always been willing to contribute, whether through his passion for an issue or
15 facilitation of social media. As a commission member, he was a guest speaker for an audience of
16 police recruits and shared his traumatic story of childhood anti-Semitism that fostered his
17 commitment to stand up to bigotry in all its forms; and

18 WHEREAS, Dedicated to his faith, Mr. Cooper was a devoted member of the Jewish
19 Council of Public Affairs, the RI Interfaith Coalition to Reduce Poverty with Faith, and was a
20 former member of Temple Am David; and

1 WHEREAS, In addition, Mr. Cooper was a member of the Holocaust Genocide
2 Education Committee, and had worked with the General Assembly on the passage of a law in
3 2016 that required school districts to teach students about genocide and the Holocaust, and
4 required the State Department of Education to provide Holocaust and genocide curriculum
5 materials to school districts starting in the 2017-2018 school year; and

6 WHEREAS, Martin Cooper lived a life committed to the pursuit of justice for all and will
7 forever be remembered in the hearts of those who had the privilege to be a part of his amazing
8 life; now, therefore be it

9 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
10 extends our deepest sympathy and condolences on the passing of Martin E. Cooper. May his
11 memory be a blessing; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
13 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to Mrs. Betsy Cooper and Family.

=====
LC000012
=====