

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025

SENATE RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF RUFINA DELIZO RICE

Introduced By: Senators Sosnowski, Felag, LaMountain, Acosta, Zurier, Bell, Quezada,
Gu, Lauria, and Paolino

Date Introduced: February 11, 2025

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, It is with deep sadness that this Senate has learned of the passing of Rufina
2 Delizo Rice, the beloved wife of the Honorable Michael A. Rice, Ph.D., a former distinguished
3 member of the Rhode Island House of Representatives who served in 2009 and 2010; and

4 WHEREAS, Rufina Delizo Rice, known as "Ping" to her many friends was born in
5 Baguio City in the Philippines to Laureano Cachero Delizo and Dolores Delizo de Delizo of
6 Naguilian, La Union, Philippines. She attended the local public elementary and high school in
7 Baguio and then proceeded to attend the University of Baguio, earning a bachelor's degree in
8 history; and

9 WHEREAS, After a brief period of employment with the Philippine National Grain
10 Authority, Rufina Delizo Rice joined the language staff of the United States Peace Corps in the
11 Philippines in 1978, serving as an instructor of the Ilocano and Tagalog languages. It was during
12 her service with the Peace Corps that she met Michael Rice who would become the love of her
13 life. They were wed in 1983 in Baguio, Philippines, and she immigrated to the United States a
14 year later in 1984; and

15 WHEREAS, After her husband Michael Rice's Peace Corps service ended in 1985,
16 Rufina accepted a position to serve as a photographic technician at the Electron Microscope
17 Facility at the University of California, Irvine where her duties included developing photographic
18 plates and prepared specimens for both the transmission and scanning electron microscopy.
19 Rufina and Mike moved to Rhode Island in October of 1987, when her husband joined the faculty
20 at the University of Rhode Island; and

1 WHEREAS, For close to two decades, Rufina Rice was the daycare provider for the
2 children of families connected with the University and the United States Environmental
3 Protection Agency Laboratory in Narragansett. Each and every day she provided those children
4 with a safe, secure, loving and enriching environment in which to flourish; and

5 WHEREAS, In her free time, Rufina enjoyed photography, and was an avid gardener,
6 who enjoyed maintaining flourishing outdoor flower gardens and tropical indoor plants. Rufina
7 was also a superb cook who loved cooking up delicious surprises at get-togethers; and

8 WHEREAS, Rufina Delizo Rice leaves behind her husband, the Honorable Michael A.
9 Rice, Ph.D., a former State Representative, and her daughter Maria Isabel Rice, Esq., as well as
10 her siblings Henry Delizo, Delfin Delizo, and Caroline Delizo. She was predeceased by her
11 parents and three siblings, Marjorie Delizo, Luz Delizo Barber and Nestor Delizo; now, therefore
12 be it

13 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island hereby expresses its deepest
14 condolences on the passing of Rufina Delizo Rice; 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 the Honorable Michael A. Rice and Family.

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