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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

HOUSE RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF THE HONORABLE ANTHONY
DELUCA

Introduced By: Representatives Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Craven, Chippendale, McEntee,
Potter, Kennedy, Hull, Fogarty, and Corvese
Date Introduced: January 22, 2026

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, It is with deep sadness that this House has learned of the passing of the
2 Honorable Anthony DeLuca, a dedicated public servant who always had the courage of his
3 convictions to express his beliefs on contentious issues. He also served our nation with honor and
4 distinction as a member of the Rhode Island National Guard; and

5 WHEREAS, Anthony DeLuca was born in Naples, Italy, the son of the late Alfonso and
6 Annunziata DeLuca. Mr. DeLuca emigrated to the United States at the age of nine with his
7 mother, brother Ciro and sister Anna to join their father in the United States, eventually settling in
8 Providence. Mr. DeLuca attended Holy Ghost grade school, Classical High School, the Rhode
9 Island School of Design, and Providence College, where he earned his Bachelor of Arts and
10 Master's Degrees; and

11 WHEREAS, Anthony DeLuca was a well-admired educator who taught for over a
12 combined thirty years with the Cranston Public Schools. His distinguished career in education
13 began when he accepted a position at Cranston West High School to teach Italian and Spanish.
14 He later headed the Foreign Language Departments at both Cranston West High School and
15 Western Hills Middle School. Under Mr. DeLuca's direction, guidance and leadership, both
16 programs received national recognition and accolades for their excellence. Mr. DeLuca was also
17 awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to study Italian literature in Italy. Mr. DeLuca also taught at the
18 University of Rhode Island, Salve Regina University and Roger Williams University; and

19 WHEREAS, Anthony DeLuca was also a distinguished public servant who always served

1 his constituents with passion and abiding integrity. He served on the Cranston City Council for
2 eight years and was elevated by the Council to serve as its Council President. Mr. DeLuca also
3 served for six years, from 1981 to 1986, as a member of the Rhode Island House of
4 Representatives from Cranston. Mr. DeLuca also acted as a delegate to the 2000 Democratic
5 National Convention; and

6 WHEREAS, Anthony DeLuca, with his wife Sylvia, was a passionate supporter of same-
7 sex marriage equality and legislation in Rhode Island. Mr. DeLuca was a dedicated member of
8 Rhode Island Catholics for Marriage Equality, and testified in favor of the 2013 Rhode Island bill
9 that legalized same-sex marriage; and

10 WHEREAS, Mr. DeLuca was also a man of great generosity and compassion who was
11 committed to helping others. He counseled young men in the Progress for Providence program
12 and coached high school football and golf. In his free time, Mr. DeLuca was a passionate student
13 of politics, a superb cook, an opera devotee, and a big fan of the New York Yankees and
14 Providence College Basketball; and

15 WHEREAS, Mr. DeLuca is survived by his wife of 66 years, Sylvia DeLuca, his children
16 Anthony, Steven and his wife, Kim, and Luisa and her wife, Brenda Harvey. Mr. DeLuca also
17 leaves behind his twin sister Anna Spadetti, his brother-in-law John Mastrobuono and his wife,
18 Carole, his granddaughters Cara DeLuca and Talia DeLuca, and his nieces and nephews, Nancy
19 Courtemanche, Peter J. Spadetti, Stefanie Mastrobuono, Claudia Mastrobuono, Liza DeFedele,
20 Marc Mastrobuono, Jon Paul Mastrobuono, and Matt Fugere. Mr. DeLuca was the brother of the
21 late Ciro DeLuca, the son-in-law of the late John and Mary Mastrobuono, and the brother-in-law
22 of the late Peter A. Spadetti and of the late Paul Mastrobuono; now, therefore be it

23 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
24 expresses its deepest condolences on the passing of the Honorable Anthony DeLuca; and be it
25 further

26 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
27 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Mrs. Sylvia DeLuca and Family.

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