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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

HOUSE RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF MICHAEL D. ZARUM

Introduced By: Representatives Shekarchi, Blazejewski, McNamara, Bennett, Place,
Hopkins, Shanley, Fellela, Ajello, and Diaz

Date Introduced: March 10, 2026

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, It is with profound sadness that this House has learned of the passing of
2 Michael D. Zarum, a lifelong resident of Warwick, who died on March 3, 2026, at Rhode Island
3 Hospital following injuries sustained in a pedestrian accident on Warwick Avenue; and

4 WHEREAS, On the evening of February 25, 2026, at approximately 8 p.m., Warwick
5 police responded to a motor vehicle crash involving Mr. Zarum near 1222 Warwick Avenue, in
6 the area of Planet Fitness, where he was struck by a southbound sedan while crossing the
7 roadway; and

8 WHEREAS, Police determined that speed, impairment, and distracted driving did not
9 appear to be contributing factors, with the driver remaining at the scene and fully cooperating
10 with the investigation; and

11 WHEREAS, Michael was born in the City of Providence, the son of the late Joel and
12 Marjorie Zucker, and the dear brother of Ella Zarum. He attended Christopher Rhodes
13 Elementary School, Aldrich Junior High School, and Pilgrim High School; and

14 WHEREAS, He earned a degree in civil engineering from the University of Rhode Island
15 and a master's degree from Northeastern University; and

16 WHEREAS, Michael worked in civil engineering on the Boston Orange Line extension
17 and later for Raytheon and Oracle in the Silicon Valley before returning to Warwick to support
18 his family and remain in his hometown; and

19 WHEREAS, Michael was a lifelong advocate for the environment and civic engagement,
20 serving for nine years on the Warwick Land Trust and for fifteen years with the Buckeye Brook

1 Coalition, where he led public efforts including the construction and operation of a deicing
2 stormwater treatment facility at T.F. Green International Airport and the implementation of an
3 air-quality monitoring program; and

4 WHEREAS, Known by fellow community members as an “environmental superhero,”
5 Michael actively participated in municipal meetings, provided input on state and Warwick
6 legislation, and worked tirelessly to safeguard open spaces, protect Buckeye Brook, ensure the
7 airport adhered to strict pollution standards, and address environmental concerns affecting all
8 Warwick residents; and

9 WHEREAS, Michael obtained his pilot’s license at age sixteen, enjoyed Rhode Island’s
10 beaches and natural environments, and treasured time spent with friends and family in his
11 community; and

12 WHEREAS, Michael will be deeply missed by his family, friends, colleagues, and all
13 who had the privilege of knowing him, and his legacy of environmental stewardship and civic
14 dedication will continue to inspire residents of Warwick; now, therefore be it

15 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
16 expresses its deepest condolences on the passing of Michael D. Zarum, acknowledges the tragic
17 circumstances of his death, and extends sincere sympathy to his family and loved ones during this
18 time of sorrow; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is respectfully requested to
20 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the family of Michael D. Zarum.

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