

2026 -- H 8260

=====  
LC006068  
=====

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

---

HOUSE RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF CATHERINE "KITTY"  
PETRARCA

Introduced By: Representatives Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Bennett, Place, McNamara,  
Shanley, Solomon, Edwards, Hopkins, and Casimiro

Date Introduced: March 10, 2026

Referred To: House read and passed

1           WHEREAS, It is with deep sadness that this House has learned of the passing of  
2 Catherine "Kitty" Petrarca. She was the beloved wife of the late Ralph A. "Happy" Petrarca, with  
3 whom she shared thirty-nine years of marriage until his passing in 1996. Kitty was also the loving  
4 mother of Natalie Kiernan and her husband Kevin, Vincent Petrarca and his husband John  
5 Krawchuk, and Anthony "Tony" Petrarca, Chief Meteorologist at WPRI-TV; and

6           WHEREAS, Raised with strong family values, Kitty was the cherished daughter of the  
7 late Louis and Natalie Santo and resided with her family in the East Natick section of Warwick  
8 before later making her home in Cranston, where she became known for her warmth, kindness,  
9 and devotion to family and community; and

10           WHEREAS, A woman of deep faith, Kitty was a longtime communicant of Sacred Heart  
11 Church. Together with her late husband, she served as co-chairperson of the Diocese of  
12 Providence's Vision of Hope Campaign during the 1990s, helping to strengthen the mission and  
13 ministries of the Diocese; and

14           WHEREAS, In addition, Kitty was an active and dedicated member of the East Natick  
15 Vets Ladies Auxiliary for many years, contributing her time and energy in support of veterans  
16 and their families; and

17           WHEREAS, Above all else, Kitty treasured her family. Besides her children she also  
18 leaves behind her cherished grandchildren, Cailey Kiernan, Connor Kiernan, Olivia Venticinque  
19 and her husband Vincent, and Antonio Petrarca, each of whom brought immense joy to her life.

1 She is also survived by her brother, Frank Santo, and was the sister of the late Josephine Silvia;  
2 and

3 WHEREAS, Kitty's life was defined by faith, friendship, and an unwavering devotion to  
4 her loved ones. She found great joy in traveling through Europe and the Caribbean, and especially  
5 cherished the tradition of spending the Fourth of July week each year with family and friends at  
6 Lake Winnepesaukee; and

7 WHEREAS, The memory of Catherine "Kitty" Petrarca will live on through the many  
8 lives she touched with her generosity, grace, and love, and she will be deeply missed by all who  
9 had the privilege of knowing her; now, therefore be it

10 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby  
11 expresses its deepest condolences to the family and friends of Catherine "Kitty" Petrarca; and be  
12 it further

13 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
14 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Family of Catherine "Kitty" Petrarca.

=====  
LC006068  
=====