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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF THE HONORABLE  
JOHN MICHAEL SKEFFINGTON, JR.

Introduced By: Representatives Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Slater, Chippendale, Diaz,  
Corvese, Kislak, O'Brien, Casey, and Fogarty

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 the  
2   Honorable John Michael Skeffington, Jr., of Newport. Mr. Skeffington, better known to his  
3   family and many friends as “Jack” was born in Providence, to the late John and Evelyn  
4   Skeffington. Mr. Skeffington was raised in a strong Irish Catholic household in the Smith Hill  
5   neighborhood of Providence. He attended St. Augustine School and LaSalle Academy. In 1961,  
6   he graduated from the New England Institute of Anatomy and followed in his father’s footsteps  
7   and became a Funeral Director; and

8           WHEREAS, For more than 65 years, Mr. Skeffington served as the consummate Funeral  
9   Director and third-generation owner of Skeffington Funeral Home in Providence. He was always  
10   impeccably dressed and always treated the grieving family members during those difficult times  
11   with dignity, grace and empathy; and

12           WHEREAS, Mr. Skeffington, who lived most of his life in Providence, was also a  
13   distinguished public servant who served with distinction as a member of the Rhode Island House  
14   of Representatives, District 9, for five terms, beginning with victory in a special election on  
15   August 14, 1979. Mr. Skeffington also served as a former President of various community and  
16   charitable organizations including the Rhode Island Elks, the Irish Kings, and the Friendly Sons  
17   of St. Patrick. He also served as a former Chairman of the Rhode Island Highway Corporation  
18   and served as a board member of RIPTA, Roger Williams Hospital and the John E. Fogarty  
19   Foundation; and

1           WHEREAS, Mr. Skeffington was a man who enjoyed being around people, whether it  
2 was attending sporting events or concerts, gathering with loved ones and friends at a favorite  
3 restaurant, backyard cookouts, or celebrating birthdays and holidays. Mr. Skeffington was a  
4 devoted family man, and a man of great faith. He was a regular communicant of St. Pius V  
5 Catholic Church in Providence; and

6           WHEREAS, Mr. Skeffington is survived by his longtime companion, Joyce Motte, and  
7 his sons, John M. Skeffington, III, and his wife, Kellie, Robert Skeffington and his wife, Lesley,  
8 and Peter Skeffington. He also leaves behind his sister, Jane Skeffington, his granddaughters,  
9 Kiley Skeffington, Blair Skeffington, and Avery Skeffington. He also leaves behind his nephew  
10 James Skeffington, Jr., and his niece Erinn Murray. Mr. Skeffington was predeceased by his  
11 brother, James Skeffington, Sr.; now, therefore be it

12           RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby  
13 expresses its deepest condolences to the Skeffington Family on the passing of the Honorable John  
14 Michael Skeffington, Jr., and be it further

15           RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
16 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to Joyce Motte, John M. Skeffington, III, Robert  
17 Skeffington, Peter Skeffington and Family.

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