



General Assembly

**Senate Joint
Resolution No. 47**

January Session, 2005

LCO No. 4145

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Referred to Committee on No Committee

Introduced by:

SEN. WILLIAMS, 29th Dist.

REP. AMANN, 118th Dist.

SEN. LOONEY, 11th Dist.

REP. DONOVAN, 84th Dist.

SEN. DELUCA, 32nd Dist.

REP. WARD, 86th Dist.

**RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SYMPATHY ON THE DEATH OF THE
REVEREND MONSIGNOR JOSEPH A. DEVINE.**

Resolved by this Assembly:

1 WHEREAS, the Reverend Monsignor Joseph A. Devine died on
2 January 6, 2005, at the age of 82; and

3 WHEREAS, he served as Chaplain to the Connecticut State Senate
4 from 1977 until 2005, and during those years, also served as chairman
5 of the Restoration and Preservation of the Connecticut State Capitol,
6 Chairman of the Connecticut State Flag Committee, and served on the
7 Governor's Commission on Conservancy; and

8 WHEREAS, he is known as the person who was largely responsible
9 for the heralded renovation of the Connecticut State Capitol in the
10 1980s, unwavering in his insistence upon strict historical architectural
11 standards; and

12 WHEREAS, born in Bridgeport, he graduated from Bassick High

13 School; the College of Commerce with a degree in accounting, with
14 high honors based on scholarship, leadership and character; and St.
15 Thomas Seminary in Bloomfield and St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore,
16 Maryland; and

17 WHEREAS, he was ordained a priest by the Most Reverend Henry J.
18 O'Brien, D.D., Archbishop of Hartford in 1949 in St. Joseph's Cathedral;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, his assignments in the Archdiocese of Hartford
21 included St. Mary's Church in Simsbury, SS Peter and Paul parish in
22 Waterbury as Assistant Pastor, St. Mary's parish in Branford as
23 Assistant Pastor, Immaculate Conception parish in Hartford, first as
24 Administrator and then as Pastor, St. Augustine's in Hartford as
25 Pastor, and Our Lady of Loreto in Waterbury, where he served as
26 Pastor until his death; and

27 WHEREAS, during his long and distinguished career as a priest, he
28 was the chaplain to the Connecticut State Police for thirty-five years,
29 and chaplain for the Branford police and Hartford police departments
30 throughout his assignment in those areas, and also served as Chairman
31 of the Tuberculosis Commission for the State of Connecticut, Secretary
32 of the Public Health Council for the State of Connecticut, and a former
33 member of the St. Mary's Hospital Board of Directors; and

34 WHEREAS, he was named Man of the Year by the Simsbury
35 Recreation Group in 1955 and Man of the Year by the Waterbury
36 Midget Football League in 1966, and was also awarded the Lay Person
37 of the Year award in 1980 by the Connecticut Chapter of the American
38 Institute of Architects; and

39 WHEREAS, his Archdiocesan appointments during his career
40 included Episcopal Vicar of the Waterbury Vicariate, Prelate of Honor,
41 Chairman of the Archdiocesan Finance Council, Priest's Retirement
42 Board, Consultor, Presbyteral Council, Committee for the Re-
43 structuring of Parishes; Coordinating Committee for the Archbishops

44 Annual Appeal, Chairman of the Allocations Committee and a
45 member of the Parish Subsidy Review Committee; and

46 WHEREAS, as Chaplain to the State Senate he was widely revered
47 for his keen political knowledge, eloquent and inspiring non-
48 denominational prayers, and his warm Irish wit, often reflecting on the
49 humorous side of the serious business at hand; and

50 WHEREAS, he is survived by his sister, Dr. Margaret M. Devine of
51 New York City; two nieces, Margaret M. Devine and Kathleen T.
52 Devine; a nephew, John D. Devine; and many loving friends and
53 colleagues.

54 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Connecticut
55 General Assembly expresses its sincere and heartfelt condolences on
56 the death of Reverend Monsignor Joseph A. Devine, friend and
57 chaplain, whose death is a profound loss to the General Assembly, his
58 friends and family, the town of Waterbury, and the state of
59 Connecticut; and

60 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the clerks of the Senate and the
61 House of Representatives cause a copy of this resolution to be sent to
62 the family of Reverend Monsignor Joseph A. Devine as an expression
63 of the high esteem and affection in which he was held.