



General Assembly

**House Joint
Resolution No. 301**

*June Special Session,
2007*

LCO No. **9866**

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Referred to Committee on No Committee

Introduced by:

REP. CAFERO, 142nd Dist.

REP. AMANN, 118th Dist.

REP. DONOVAN, 84th Dist.

SEN. MCKINNEY, 28th Dist.

SEN. WILLIAMS, 29th Dist.

SEN. LOONEY, 11th Dist.

**RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SYMPATHY ON THE DEATH OF
RICHARD O. BELDEN.**

Resolved by this Assembly:

1 WHEREAS, on Monday, August 20, 2007, the State of Connecticut
2 and the City of Shelton sadly lost one of its most beloved statesmen
3 with the passing of Richard O. Belden at age seventy-three; and

4 WHEREAS, he was the "Dean of the House" and the longest
5 continuously serving member of the House of Representatives,
6 representing Shelton for over thirty years from 1974 to August 2007;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, he was a life-long resident of Shelton, graduating from
9 the Shelton school system, serving his country in the United States Air
10 Force from 1955 to 1961 and working for Sikorsky Aircraft for thirty-
11 eight years; and

12 WHEREAS, he was an active member of his community, serving as
13 a member of the Shelton Republican Town Committee, the Shelton
14 Board of Apportionment and Taxation, the Board of Aldermen, the
15 American Legion Post 16 and various building committees. In
16 addition, he served as a trustee of St. Mary Margaret Church, cochair
17 of the Valley Substance Abuse Council, advisory board member to the
18 Emmett O'Brien Regional Vocational-Technical School, and a
19 corporator of Griffin Hospital, Parent Child Resource Center, the
20 Birmingham Group, the Lower Naugatuck Valley Boys and Girls Club
21 and Hewitt Memorial Hospital; and

22 WHEREAS, he most recently served as the House Republican
23 Deputy Leader-At-Large, cochair of the House Republican Bill
24 Screening Committee and member of the Finance, Revenue and
25 Bonding Committee, the Labor and Public Employees Committee and
26 the Joint Committee on Legislative Management, and previously held
27 various leadership positions including Deputy Speaker, Deputy
28 Republican Leader, Assistant Republican Leader, Ranking Member of
29 the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee, member of the State
30 Bond Commission, director of the Connecticut Resources Recovery
31 Authority and chair at the Connecticut Institute of Municipal Studies;
32 and

33 WHEREAS, he was a fiscal conservative, strongly advising and
34 advocating that the legislature keep our state's spending and
35 borrowing levels under control, and was also a leading proponent on
36 a number of issues, including tougher laws against drunk driving, the
37 acquisition of open space and farmland preservation, fully funding
38 teachers' pensions and using surplus funds to pay down the state's
39 debt; and

40 WHEREAS, he was a master of parliamentary procedure,
41 possessing a keen understanding of the rules and respect for the
42 legislative process and decorum of the General Assembly; and

43 WHEREAS, he was a man who worked to help others, whose long

44 list of accomplishments and contributions to his community and to the
45 state reveals a life-long dedication to public service and commitment
46 to improving the lives of others; and

47 WHEREAS, he is remembered fondly by his colleagues for his wit,
48 kindness, friendship, knowledge and integrity; and

49 WHEREAS, he was a gentle giant, a most respected and beloved
50 man who will never be forgotten; and

51 WHEREAS, he leaves behind his wife, Bert, to whom he was
52 married since 1956, and many close relatives and friends who loved
53 and respected him. We thank his wife Bert and family for allowing us
54 to spend part of his great life with us here at the Connecticut General
55 Assembly.

56 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Connecticut
57 General Assembly expresses its sincere sympathy and heartfelt
58 condolences on the passing of one of its most honorable former
59 members of the House of Representatives, Richard O. Belden, whose
60 death is a profound loss to the General Assembly, his friends and
61 family, the people of Shelton and the State of Connecticut; and

62 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the clerks of the Senate and
63 House of Representatives cause a copy of this resolution to be
64 presented to the family of Richard O. Belden as an expression of the
65 high esteem in which he was held.