



General Assembly

February Session, 2014

House Resolution No. 10

LCO No. 3397



Referred to Committee on No Committee

Introduced by:

REP. SHARKEY, 88th Dist.

REP. ARESIMOWICZ, 30th Dist.

REP. CASE, 63rd Dist.

RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SYMPATHY ON THE DEATH OF JOHN G. GROPPA.

Resolved by this House:

1 WHEREAS, on Wednesday, June 12, 2013, the State of Connecticut
2 lost one of its distinguished former state representatives with the
3 passing of John G. Groppo at the age of ninety-two; and

4 WHEREAS, he served as a state lawmaker representing the 63rd
5 district of the House of Representatives from 1959 to 1985; and

6 WHEREAS, during his time at the General Assembly, he served as
7 House Majority Leader, Chairman of the Appropriations Committee,
8 Chairman of the Claims Committee, member of the Legislative
9 Program Review and Investigations Committee, member of the Joint
10 Committee on Legislative Management, and member of the Executive
11 and Legislative Nominations Committee; and

12 WHEREAS, John was a passionate, conscientious and hardworking

13 legislator and approached each legislative session with a youthful
14 enthusiasm and zeal; and

15 WHEREAS, with his straightforward approach and good humor, he
16 mentored a generation of legislators, legislative staff, agency
17 employees and outside advocates; and

18 WHEREAS, as Majority Leader, he was persuasive and effective,
19 and earned the respect of many for confronting problems and issues
20 directly; and

21 WHEREAS, after leaving the General Assembly, he served as the
22 state's Commissioner of Revenue Services from 1985 to 1987 at the
23 request of his friend and former Governor William A. O'Neill, and as a
24 member of the Judicial Selection Commission; and

25 WHEREAS, the son of the late Leo and Adele Groppo, he was born
26 and raised in Winsted with his five brothers, Gurino, Louis, Alfred,
27 Julio and Reno Groppo; and attended St. Anthony School and The
28 Gilbert School; and

29 WHEREAS, he served his country in the United States Marine
30 Corps for four years, answered the call to active duty during the
31 Second World War, and earned a Purple Heart for his service in Guam;
32 and

33 WHEREAS, after his service with the Marine Corps, John returned
34 to Winsted, and married Sadie Avenia, his beloved wife of sixty-three
35 years; and

36 WHEREAS, John and Sadie raised five daughters and one son; and

37 WHEREAS, as a stonemason, he worked alongside his father at Leo
38 Groppo & Son, Mason Contractors, rebuilt the wall in front of St.
39 Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, built a stone house for his brother
40 and many stone walls, patios and fireplaces; and

41 WHEREAS, with honor and distinction, he served the town of
42 Winsted as Mayor from 1965 to 1967; the Democratic Registrar of
43 Voters; the Democratic Town Chairman; the Deputy Chief of Winsted
44 Fire Department Engine 2; a member of the William L. Gilbert Trust
45 Corporation; and the Chairman of the Northwest Community Bank
46 Corporation; and

47 WHEREAS, always active in organizations in which he believed, he
48 was a Past Grand Knight of the 4th degree of the Knights of Columbus,
49 and also was a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks
50 No. 844, the Winchester Counsel No. 22 and Veterans of Foreign Wars;
51 and

52 WHEREAS, a scholarship at Northwestern Connecticut Community
53 College in Winsted was established in John's name and is awarded
54 annually to a deserving deaf or hard-of-hearing student or a student
55 enrolled in the Interpreter Preparation Program; and

56 WHEREAS, he will always be remembered for his lasting
57 contributions to the town of Winsted and the State of Connecticut and
58 his service to the people throughout the State; and

59 WHEREAS, having been predeceased by his wife, parents and
60 brothers, John is survived by his six children, Linda Groppo of
61 Simsbury, Mary Weinback of Winsted, Theresa Jacob and her husband
62 David of Middletown, Nancy Groth and her husband Philip of West
63 Hartland, John G. Groppo, Jr. and his wife Bonnie of Nicholasville,
64 Kentucky, Gloria Williams and her husband Robert of Simsbury;
65 seventeen grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; and many nieces
66 and nephews.

67 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Connecticut House
68 of Representatives expresses its sincere sympathy and heartfelt
69 condolences on the passing of one of its respected former members,
70 John G. Groppo, whose death is a profound loss to the General
71 Assembly, his family and friends, the residents of the town of Winsted

72 and the people of the State of Connecticut; and

73 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the House of
74 Representatives cause a copy of this resolution to be sent to the family
75 of John G. Groppo as an expression of the high esteem and affection in
76 which he was held.