



General Assembly

**Senate Joint  
Resolution No. 45**

*January Session, 2021*

LCO No. 6223



Referred to Committee on NO COMMITTEE

Introduced by:

SEN. LOONEY, 11<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
SEN. DUFF, 25<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
SEN. KELLY, 21<sup>st</sup> Dist.  
SEN. FORMICA, 20<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
REP. RITTER M., 1<sup>st</sup> Dist.  
REP. ROJAS, 9<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
REP. CANDELORA, 86<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
SEN. ANWAR, 3<sup>rd</sup> Dist.  
SEN. BRADLEY, 23<sup>rd</sup> Dist.  
SEN. CABRERA, 17<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
SEN. CASSANO, 4<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
SEN. COHEN, 12<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
SEN. DAUGHERTY ABRAMS, 13<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
SEN. FLEXER, 29<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
SEN. FONFARA, 1<sup>st</sup> Dist.

SEN. HARTLEY, 15<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
SEN. HASKELL, 26<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
SEN. KASSER, 36<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
SEN. KUSHNER, 24<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
SEN. LESSER, 9<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
SEN. LOPES, 6<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
SEN. MARONEY, 14<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
SEN. MCCRORY, 2<sup>nd</sup> Dist.  
SEN. MILLER P., 27<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
SEN. MOORE, 22<sup>nd</sup> Dist.  
SEN. NEEDLEMAN, 33<sup>rd</sup> Dist.  
SEN. OSTEN, 19<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
SEN. SLAP, 5<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
SEN. WINFIELD, 10<sup>th</sup> Dist.

**RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SYMPATHY ON THE DEATH OF  
FORMER STATE SENATOR BIAGIO S. "BILLY" CIOTTO.**

Resolved by this Assembly:

- 1 WHEREAS, on Saturday, March 20, 2021, the State of Connecticut,
- 2 the towns of Wethersfield, Newington, Rocky Hill and Cromwell and
- 3 the city of Middletown lost an admired and dedicated State Senator with
- 4 the passing of Biagio S. "Billy" Ciotto, at the age of ninety-one; and

5 WHEREAS, he represented the 9th senatorial district with distinction  
6 for twelve years from 1994 through 2006; and

7 WHEREAS, he was born on December 25, 1929, the only child of the  
8 late Joseph and Antoinetta (Scinto) Ciotto; and

9 WHEREAS, he graduated from Bulkeley High School in Hartford,  
10 Connecticut in 1947 and began a successful forty-two year career with  
11 the Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles; and

12 WHEREAS, during his time at the Connecticut Department of Motor  
13 Vehicles, he served as a Teletype Machine Operator, an Inspector, a  
14 Supervisor, Manager, Director of Registry and Title and Deputy  
15 Commissioner after his appointment by Governor William O'Neill in  
16 1987 and counted among his many accomplishments the transition to  
17 and implementation of the issuance of photo driver's licenses; and

18 WHEREAS, he often worked three jobs to enable his wife, Jeanne, to  
19 stay home with their children, including one job as an accordion player  
20 in the locally renowned Hartford area band, the Bel-Aires, who  
21 performed at countless weddings and dance hall events during the  
22 1950s through the 1970s; and

23 WHEREAS, he volunteered at St. Francis Hospital from 1989 through  
24 1994 after his retirement from the Connecticut Department of Motor  
25 Vehicles; and

26 WHEREAS, he served for six terms as a State Senator, and served as  
27 a chairperson of the Transportation Committee; and

28 WHEREAS, as a member of the General Assembly, he was renowned  
29 and respected for his ability to reach across the aisle and advocate  
30 common sense bipartisan legislation and he cofounded the Italian-  
31 American Legislative Caucus with former State Representatives Richard  
32 Tulisano and Joe Serra, State Representative Anthony D'Amelio and  
33 former State Senator Lou DeLuca, which created, through bipartisan  
34 effort, an educational scholarship fund to promote the appreciation and  
35 understanding of Italian-American history and culture; and

36 WHEREAS, he displayed a profound love for the work accomplished  
37 by the Connecticut General Assembly and the friendships that were  
38 created during his time in the State Senate; and

39 WHEREAS, after his retirement from the State Senate he worked with  
40 the Hartford office of United States Congressman John Larson to help  
41 the constituents of the 1<sup>st</sup> Congressional District until his passing; and

42 WHEREAS, he is best known for his infectious smile, ever-present  
43 cigar and genuine love of people; and

44 WHEREAS, over the course of his career, he humbly accepted  
45 numerous accolades from many organizations, including the Greater  
46 Hartford Italian-American Home, the Rocky Hill St. Patrick's Day  
47 Parade Committee, the Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center in West  
48 Hartford, the InterCommunity Mental Healthcare Clinic in East  
49 Hartford, the Rocky Hill Democratic Town Committee and the Central  
50 Connecticut Celtic Cultural Committee; and

51 WHEREAS, he is survived by his "beautiful bride" of sixty-six years  
52 Jeanne, his children and their spouses, Joseph, Anthony, Julie and John  
53 Ferrigno, John and Sherri Ciotto and Maria and Ken Larose, his five  
54 grandchildren, Johnathan Ferrigno, Jessica Ferrigno, Gabrielle Ciotto,  
55 Daniel Ciotto and Jack Larose and several dear cousins, nieces, nephews  
56 and friends; and

57 WHEREAS, he was predeceased by his parents, his mother and  
58 father-in-law, Margaretta and Edmund Purtell, his daughter-in-law,  
59 Mary (Lupo) Ciotto, his aunts and uncles, Dominick and Rose Ciotto,  
60 Antoinette Rosso, Giovaninna and Silvio Paoletta, Philomena and  
61 Michael Galizia, Isabelle and Louis Scenti, Mike and Corrine Scenti and  
62 Mary Scenti, his wife's siblings and their spouses, Shirley and Al Amos,  
63 Walter and Lillian Miller, Norman Miller, and Marge and Henry  
64 Dowling, and his many cousins and dear friends.

65 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Connecticut General  
66 Assembly expresses its sincere sympathy and heartfelt condolences on

67 the passing of one of its honorable members, Biagio S. "Billy" Ciotto,  
68 whose death is a profound loss to the State Senate, his family and  
69 friends, the residents of Wethersfield, Newington, Rocky Hill,  
70 Cromwell and Middletown and the entire state of Connecticut; and

71 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the clerks of the House of  
72 Representatives and the Senate cause a copy of this resolution to be sent  
73 to the family of Biagio S. "Billy" Ciotto, as an expression of the high  
74 esteem and affection in which he is held.