

**As Adopted by the Senate**

**135th General Assembly  
Regular Session  
2023-2024**

**S. R. No. 495**

**Senators Huffman, M., Brenner**

**Cosponsors: Senators Craig, Reynolds, Romanchuk, Kunze, DeMora**

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**A RESOLUTION**

In memory of Athanasios I. "Tommy" Pappas.

WHEREAS, The members of the Senate of the 135th General Assembly 1  
of Ohio were saddened to learn of the passing of Athanasios I. "Tommy" 2  
Pappas and extend our most heartfelt condolences to his family and 3  
many friends on this sorrowful occasion; and 4

WHEREAS, Tommy Pappas was a fine Ohioan and a downtown Columbus 5  
icon, and the memory of this charismatic man will be eternal. Born in 6  
Greece, he immigrated to America and became known and respected as the 7  
owner of Tommy's Diner, a family-operated restaurant on West Broad 8  
Street, which he founded with his wife in 1989 and ran with his sons 9  
over the years. Tommy Pappas welcomed scores of loyal patrons to the 10  
popular gathering spot, and the walls of the eatery were transformed 11  
to not only pay homage to the many elected officials and celebrated 12  
figures he met but also to feature historical moments from the past 13  
three-and-a-half decades. The dream he had for his business to host 14  
family and friends—for that is how Tommy Pappas greeted all those he 15  
encountered—will echo throughout Tommy's Diner, as will his abounding 16  
kindness, his spirited stories and conversations, and his larger-than- 17  
life presence; and 18

WHEREAS, Tommy Pappas was deeply loved as the patriarch of his 19  
family, and he flourished in the close-knit circle of all those who 20  
knew him best. He was sincere and generous and found immense 21  
fulfilment in being a devoted husband to his wife of nearly fifty 22  
years, Kathy, a supportive father to his sons, Louie and Michael, an 23  
adoring grandfather to his grandchildren, Kaliopi, Dina, Athan, Tommy, 24  
Costa, George, and Elias, and a cherished son, brother, uncle, cousin, 25  
and friend; and 26

WHEREAS, Tommy Pappas extended the warmth of his personality to 27  
everyone, and he was beloved for his integrity and for the ease with 28  
which he created strong bonds with people. He strove to make the world 29  
a better place, and he was a champion for the Franklinton neighborhood 30  
as well as The Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral, where he served 31  
on the parish council and the Greek Festival committee. Tommy Pappas 32  
unified people, and indeed, his legacy will stand as a reminder of how 33  
one person's philanthropy, faith, dedication, and gratitude for life's 34  
blessings can serve as a rich example of humanity. His absence will be 35  
keenly felt; therefore be it 36

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the Senate of the 135th General 37  
Assembly of Ohio, in adopting this Resolution, salute the life of 38  
Athanasios I. "Tommy" Pappas and pay tribute to a truly honorable man 39  
and an exemplary citizen of Ohio; and be it further 40

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Senate transmit a duly 41  
authenticated copy of this Resolution to the family of Athanasios I. 42  
"Tommy" Pappas. 43