

2013 -- H 5925

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2013

HOUSE RESOLUTION

CONGRATULATING DR. KATE MCCARTHY-BARNETT ON HER INDUCTION INTO
THE COVENTRY HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION HALL OF FAME

Introduced By: Representatives Guthrie, Tomasso, Nunes, and Serpa

Date Introduced: March 26, 2013

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, For decades, Dr. McCarthy-Barnett, a teacher, a writer, and a coordinator
2 extraordinaire, has been providing leadership and making a significant difference in efforts to
3 help people “turn disabilities into abilities”; and

4 WHEREAS, While attending high school, Dr. McCarthy-Barnett was diagnosed with a
5 chronic illness that resulted in the need for extensive bed rest. Without holding back on her goals
6 and with the aid of tutors and determination, she graduated from Coventry High School in 1985.
7 She continued her education, earning her Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees, and her Doctorate in
8 Education; and

9 WHEREAS, For some people, a difficult health diagnosis might well have a limiting
10 effect on their joy for life or their ambitions, not so for Dr. McCarthy-Barnett. From her high
11 school experiences came an empathy and a life-calling to motivate and help people with
12 disabilities; and

13 WHEREAS, Dr. McCarthy-Barnett has conducted research, taught courses, and written a
14 column for the Providence Journal on eliminating barriers in education and employment for
15 people with disabilities and overcoming adversity to lead productive lives; and

16 WHEREAS, Recently, Dr. McCarthy-Barnett has worked with the Department of
17 Homeland Security Federal Emergency Management Agency Region 1 as the Regional Disability
18 Integration Specialist. She is also an appointed member of the organization’s Council and is a
19 member of the Regional Incident Management Assistance Team. In her capacity as a Specialist,

1 she has helped to establish plans to assist people with disabilities during times of emergency; and
2 WHEREAS, Within our state, Dr. McCarthy-Barnett has served as Chair of the Rhode
3 Island Department of Human Services State Rehabilitation Council and Co-Chair of the Council's
4 State Plan, Policy, and Quality Assurance Committee. In addition, she is Vice Chair of the
5 Governor's Commission on Disabilities and Chair of the Commission's Accessibility Committee,
6 to name just a few of her commitments; and

7 WHEREAS, Throughout her lifetime, Dr. McCarthy-Barnett has earned her reputation
8 for excellence and dedication to others. Being an Inductee into the Coventry High School
9 Alumni Association Hall of Fame is a momentous tribute to this exceptional woman who has
10 provided future generations of Coventry High School graduates with a role model worthy of their
11 recognition and emulation; now, therefore be it

12 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
13 Providence Plantations hereby congratulates and honors Dr. McCarthy-Barnett on her induction
14 into the Coventry High School Alumni Association Hall of Fame. We wish her good health,
15 much happiness, and continued success in all her future endeavors; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
17 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Dr. McCarthy-Barnett.

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