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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2011

H O U S E R E S O L U T I O N

**DECLARING MARCH 30TH, 2011, TO BE "WELCOME HOME VIETNAM VETERANS
DAY" IN RHODE ISLAND**

Introduced By: Representatives Fox, Mattiello, Watson, JP O`Neill, and Gallison

Date Introduced: March 30, 2011

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, The Vietnam War was fought in Vietnam from 1961 to 1975 and involved
2 North Vietnam and Viet Cong forces in conflict with forces from the United States, South
3 Vietnam, South Korea, Australia, and other nations aligned with the United States. However,
4 most of the forces provided for the defense of South Vietnam came from the United States; and

5 WHEREAS, The United States became involved in the Vietnamese conflict because of
6 the belief that the North Vietnamese communist government was trying to impose its will on
7 South Vietnam, and the fear that if South Vietnam fell, communism would spread throughout the
8 rest of Southeast Asia; and

9 WHEREAS, Members of the United States Armed Forces began serving in South
10 Vietnam in 1961 in an advisory role to the South Vietnamese government; and

11 WHEREAS, As a result of the Gulf of Tonkin incidents in 1964, the United States
12 Congress overwhelmingly passed the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution on August 7, 1964, which
13 effectively handed over war-making powers to President Johnson until such time as "peace and
14 security" had returned to South Vietnam; and

15 WHEREAS, In 1965, United States Armed Forces ground combat units arrived in
16 Vietnam. By 1969, a peak of 543,000 American troops were serving in South Vietnam; and

17 WHEREAS, On January 27, 1973, The Treaty of Paris was signed, which required the
18 release of all United States prisoners-of-war held in North Vietnam and the withdrawal of all
19 United States Armed Forces from South Vietnam; and

1 WHEREAS, On March 30, 1973, the United States Armed Forces completed the
2 withdrawal of combat troops from Vietnam; and

3 WHEREAS, More than 58,000 members of the United States Armed Forces lost their
4 lives in Vietnam and more than 300,000 members of the United States Armed Forces were
5 wounded in Vietnam; and

6 WHEREAS, Members of the United States Armed Forces who served in Vietnam, men
7 and women who served their nation faithfully and with bravery, honor, and distinction, were
8 caught up on their return home in the crossfire of public debate about the involvement of the
9 United States in the Vietnam War; and

10 WHEREAS, The Establishment of a “Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day” in Rhode
11 Island would be an appropriate way to honor those members of the Armed Forces from Rhode
12 Island who served in the United States Armed Forces in Vietnam during the Vietnam War; now,
13 therefore be it

14 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
15 Providence Plantations hereby declares March 30, 2011, to be “Welcome Home Vietnam
16 Veterans Day” in Rhode Island; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to
18 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the Rhode Island Adjutant General, Major
19 General Robert T. Bray.

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