

**2011 -- H 6172**

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**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2011**

**HOUSE RESOLUTION**

**EXPRESSING ITS DEEPEST SYMPATHIES ON THE PASSING OF JAMES E. BRENNAN**

Introduced By: Representatives Johnston, DaSilva, Messier, E Coderre, and JP O'Neill

Date Introduced: May 18, 2011

Referred To: House read and passed

1           WHEREAS, James E. Brennan was a lifelong resident of Pawtucket. The son of the late  
2 Michael and Catherine (Piggott) Brennan, he was a graduate of St. Raphael Academy; and

3           WHEREAS, James enlisted in the United States Army Air Corps in 1941, just eighteen  
4 days before war was declared with Japan. Soon he was serving on the southern tip of the Bataan  
5 Peninsula in the Philippines, enduring Japanese bombings and strafings, as well as short supplies  
6 of food, water, and medicine; and

7           WHEREAS, When the Philippines finally fell after the American forces' heroic  
8 endurance of a three- month siege, Brennan was incarcerated in a hospital. James E. Brennan  
9 lived under harsh conditions as a prisoner of war for three and one-half years, both in the  
10 Philippines and in Japan, where he worked in a steel mill. His weakened physical condition  
11 required an additional one-year hospital stay at the end of the war. Men like James E. Brennan  
12 remind us all of how blessed this nation has been to have heroes who are willing to sacrifice so  
13 much to defend and preserve the freedoms we take for granted; and

14           WHEREAS, James returned home and later became a Pawtucket Police Officer, where he  
15 served the citizens with honor, valor, and courage for more than thirty-four years and retired as a  
16 Lieutenant. One of the hallmarks of his career as a Police Officer was his role in apprehending the  
17 killers of Detective Lieutenant Thomas Truesdale and Detective Emil Newsberg in 1958. He was  
18 also the first president of the Fraternal Order of Police, Pawtucket Lodge; and

19           WHEREAS, James was inducted in 1999 into the Pawtucket Hall of Fame, and in 2003  
20 was the belated recipient of several military medals. James is survived by four children: Michael,

1 Mark, Mary, and Maureen, step-son Paul Chalmers, four grandchildren, and four great-  
2 grandchildren; now, therefore be it

3           RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and  
4 Providence Plantations hereby expresses its deepest sorrows on the passing of James E. Brennan.  
5 We also honor him for his service to our nation during World War II. He was a patriot and a  
6 hero, and we will never forget his service and sacrifice on behalf of our grateful nation; and be it  
7 further

8           RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to  
9 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Mr. Michael Brennan and family.

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