

2020 -- H 7116

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2020

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

HONORING AND CONGRATULATING EARL J. CROFT, III, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF  
THE RHODE ISLAND TURNPIKE AND BRIDGE AUTHORITY, ON HIS RETIREMENT  
AFTER THIRTY-SEVEN YEARS OF DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC SERVICE

Introduced By: Representatives Ruggiero, Carson, Edwards, Shekarchi, and Abney

Date Introduced: January 15, 2020

Referred To: House read and passed

1           WHEREAS, Earl J. “Buddy” Croft, III, Executive Director of the Rhode Island Turnpike  
2 and Bridge Authority (RITBA), is retiring after a remarkable thirty-seven year career of  
3 distinguished public service. His tireless commitment and service to the citizens of Rhode Island  
4 has been admired and appreciated by all who know him and all have observed just how well  
5 government departments and entities have performed while under his direction, leadership and  
6 guidance; and

7           WHEREAS, Mr. Croft began his public service career at Bishop Hendricken High  
8 School, where he was a teacher and football coach. He later worked at a variety of positions with  
9 the City of Cranston, including serving as the Assistant Public Works Director. Mr. Croft then  
10 proceeded to work for the Rhode Island Family Court where he once again showed his versatility  
11 shining in a number of capacities, including serving as the Family Court’s Drug Court  
12 Coordinator, Truancy Court Coordinator and as Chief of Staff; and

13           WHEREAS, For the last thirteen years, since July of 2006, Mr. Croft has served with  
14 honor, integrity and distinction as the Executive Director of the Rhode Island Turnpike and  
15 Bridge Authority. Under his leadership, RITBA has made numerous positive changes that have  
16 vastly improved bridge transportation throughout Rhode Island including electronic tolling, E-Z  
17 Pass, and Open Road Tolling. Director Croft also played a vital role in the installation of a  
18 median barrier on the Newport Bridge; and

19           WHEREAS, The State of Rhode Island gave RITBA the responsibility for the Sakonnet

1 River Bridge and the Jamestown Bridge during Mr. Croft’s tenure as Executive Director. Under  
2 his guidance and direction, many important reconstruction and maintenance projects on all four  
3 bridges under RITBA jurisdiction were completed. Mr. Croft also led the recent 50th Anniversary  
4 Celebration of the Newport Pell Bridge; and

5 WHEREAS, Mr. Croft was an active member of the International Bridge Tunnel and  
6 Turnpike Association (IBTTA), and served as President of the IBTTA in 2016. He also served as  
7 a member of the Organization’s Executive Committee from 2013 to 2016. Governor Gina  
8 Raimondo succinctly summed up Mr. Croft’s distinguished public service career and tenure as  
9 Executive Director of RITBA by stating “Every Rhode Islander has benefitted from Buddy’s  
10 steadfast commitment to improving our state’s infrastructure and willingness to go the extra  
11 mile”; now, therefore be it

12 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and  
13 Providence Plantations hereby thanks Mr. Earl J. “Buddy” Croft, III, for his thirty-seven years of  
14 exemplary public service, including thirteen years as Executive Director of the Rhode Island  
15 Turnpike and Bridge Authority, and wishes him a most happy retirement and continued success  
16 in all his future endeavors; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
18 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Mr. Earl J. Croft, III.

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