

2024 -- H 7346

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LC003270  
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

JOYOUSLY CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF MOUNT SAINT CHARLES  
ACADEMY

Introduced By: Representatives Shekarchi, Marszalkowski, Blazejewski, Phillips,  
Casey, J. Brien, Chippendale, Tanzi, Solomon, and Fellela

Date Introduced: January 30, 2024

Referred To: House read and passed

1           WHEREAS, By the end of the 19th century, Woonsocket had become populated by  
2 thousands of people from Canada, most of them of French origins. The Woonsocket Catholic  
3 clergy was primarily French-American and they decided that one of the best ways to serve this  
4 population was by opening a school; and

5           WHEREAS, Monsignor Charles Dauray and Brother Josephus McGarry, SC, local  
6 clergyman who desired to preserve the French language and the Catholic faith throughout the  
7 region, worked with the Brothers of the Sacred Heart, a French Catholic congregation, to open a  
8 Catholic school in the Bernon Heights neighborhood of Woonsocket. Thanks to their hard work  
9 and dedication, Mount Saint Charles Academy was incorporated in 1919, and opened for its first  
10 day of school on September 14, 1924, with Brother Josephus, SC, serving as the first Director;  
11 and

12           WHEREAS, Beginning as an all-boys school, Mount Saint Charles became co-  
13 educational in 1972, when it admitted fifty new students, with six becoming the first female  
14 graduates in Mount Saint Charles history in 1973. In June of 2023 the school joyously celebrated  
15 the 50th anniversary of the admission of female students. Mount Saint Charles also expanded in  
16 1972 to include middle school grades 7 and 8, and in 2015, it expanded once again to include the  
17 6th grade; and

18           WHEREAS, One thing that has always remained constant has been the high quality of  
19 education offered to all the school's students. Mount was first accredited by the New England

1 Association of Schools and Colleges in 1990, and continues to retain that distinction of  
2 excellence with a 100 percent graduation rate. Most Mount Saint Charles' students advance to an  
3 institution of higher education, earning approximately \$22 million in scholarships and acceptance  
4 to more than 170 colleges and universities over the years. In addition, Mount has been recognized  
5 twice as a Blue Ribbon School of Excellence by the United States Department of Education; and

6 WHEREAS, Throughout the years, Mount Saint Charles has always been innovative and  
7 has adapted to changing times and technology while remaining true to its Catholic faith, values,  
8 and the special "Mount character" that appeals to so many people. A key innovation was the  
9 establishment of the teacher counselor (TC) program within the school counseling department,  
10 which ensures that each student has an adult advocate monitoring his/her needs, serves as a  
11 liaison between the school and the student's family, and has worked to help students through  
12 mental health programing; and

13 WHEREAS, Most recently, Mount has completed a significant Media Center renovation  
14 which included enhanced computer labs, the expansion of library services to include a coffee  
15 shop and café area, where students can gather to study, and the construction of a new  
16 amphitheater space for outdoor dining and events. In the curriculum and programming part of the  
17 school's offerings, the Advanced Placement program was expanded with the Capstone Diploma  
18 program, which gives students extensive teaching focused on enhancing their analytical and  
19 communication skills. In the 1990s, Mount completed the renovation of classrooms, the building  
20 of a new music center and black box theater, and a new gymnasium; and

21 WHEREAS, Mount Saint Charles Academy may well be most famous for its outstanding  
22 athletic programs. Its famed men's ice hockey program, led for many years by esteemed Head  
23 Coach Bill Belisle, won 45 State Titles, including 26 in a row, and produced numerous NHL  
24 players. Other sports at the school that have earned State titles include, men's soccer, swimming,  
25 lacrosse, volleyball and baseball, and women's tennis, volleyball, swimming, basketball, and  
26 hockey. The ideal of the true student-athlete flourishes at Mount Saint Charles; and

27 WHEREAS, Mount Saint Charles also offers an array of outstanding enrichment  
28 opportunities for its students. The Music Department offers extracurricular activities including  
29 stage bands, jazz bands, string ensembles, a school Dance program that offers opportunities in  
30 modern, jazz, ballet and tap, the Chorus that teaches vocal performance in musical theater,  
31 religious songs and popular songs, and the Theater department that teaches theory, and training  
32 experiences for aspiring actors; and

33 WHEREAS, Mount Saint Charles had its first lay President in 2009. The current  
34 President is Mr. Alan Tenreiro, a distinguished 1992 Mount graduate who most recently was

1 named the National Principal of the Year for the key role he played in transforming Cumberland  
2 High School into one of the most successful high schools in the State and Nation; now, therefore  
3 be it

4           RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives hereby joyously celebrates the 100th  
5 Anniversary of Mount Saint Charles Academy and wishes them another hundred years and more  
6 of success. We thank them for all they do to educate, help, and develop our State and Nation's  
7 future generations and for all they do to make Woonsocket and the State of Rhode Island better  
8 places in which to live and work; and be it further

9           RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
10 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Mr. Alan Tenreiro, President of Mount Saint  
11 Charles Academy.

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