

2014 -- H 7899

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2014

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

**CONGRATULATING BRIGADIER GENERAL, RETIRED, RICHARD F. KEENE ON HIS
RETIREMENT FROM THE UNITED STATES ARMY AFTER MANY YEARS OF
DISTINGUISHED AND DEVOTED SERVICE TO OUR NATION AND THE CITIZENS OF
RHODE ISLAND**

Introduced By: Representatives Newberry, and Mattiello

Date Introduced: March 06, 2014

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, Brigadier General, Retired, Richard F. Keene was commissioned as a
2 United States Military Officer in 1985 through the State Officer Candidate School at the 243rd
3 Regional Training Institute, at Camp Varnum in Rhode Island. Prior to receiving his commission,
4 he served an active duty enlistment in the United States Navy as a Petty Officer heavy equipment
5 operator, as well as serving in the Rhode Island Army National Guard as a Non-Commissioned
6 Officer Special Forces Radio Operator; and

7 WHEREAS, Brigadier General, Retired, Keene's most recent assignment was in service
8 as the Assistant Vice-Commander of the United States Special Operations Command. His
9 primary responsibility was to represent the United States Special Operations Command and the
10 Component Commands to the Joint Staff, Service Staffs, Office of the Secretary of Defense and
11 other governmental agencies. He consistently provided vital information, coordination, research
12 analysis and advice in an accurate and timely fashion, as well as unique special forces expertise in
13 the critical areas of plans, policy, programs, resources and current operations; and

14 WHEREAS, General Keene also served a prior assignment as a General Officer and Flag
15 Officer interacting with senior leadership and civilian leadership in the Pentagon as well as other
16 governmental agencies, and the private sector; and

17 WHEREAS, General Keene deployed several times in service to our nation including
18 serving as the first Director of Operations for the Joint Special Operations Task Force Horn of

1 Africa. He subsequently served as the Special Forces Liaison Element to Nairobi, Kenya, on
2 behalf of the Joint Special Operations Task Force Horn of Africa, and then as Operations Officer
3 within the Future Operations Division of the United States Special Operations Command. Finally,
4 he served as the Deputy Commander for Inter-Agency Coordination for Special Operations
5 Command South, and as Commander, Special Operations Command-Forward in Bogota,
6 Colombia, where the United States Special Operations Forces provided Security Forces
7 Assistance to Colombian Special Operations Forces and provided vital leadership in assisting the
8 Minister of Defense and Chief of Defense on the creation of a Colombian Special Operations
9 Command; and

10 WHEREAS, General Keene has been awarded numerous honors during his distinguished
11 military career including the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Defense
12 Meritorious Service Medal with one Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster, the Meritorious Service Medal
13 with one Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster, the Joint Commendation Medal, the Army Commendation
14 Medal with four Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Achievement Medal with one Oak Leaf
15 Cluster, and the Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal with One Silver Oak Leaf
16 Cluster, and two Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters. He has also earned the Master Parachutist Badge and
17 the Special Forces Tab; and

18 WHEREAS, General Keene has excelled in two prior civilian careers. He served on the
19 Primrose Volunteer Fire Department in North Smithfield, Rhode Island, retiring after serving
20 fifteen years as Fire Chief. During this period he also served as President of the Rhode Island
21 Association of Fire Chiefs. He later went on to work for AMICA Mutual Insurance Company,
22 initially as a homeowner and personal injury claims adjuster and eventually serving as a Senior
23 Claims Supervisor. He is also the founder of the consulting company Quanta Global Associates,
24 LLC ; and

25 WHEREAS, General Keene earned an Associate's degree in Fire Science from Rhode
26 Island Community College, a Bachelor of Science degree in Fire Safety from Providence College,
27 and an Master's degree in Strategic Studies from the United States Army War College. He
28 supports several charities including Give to the World, the Gold Star Teen Adventure Program,
29 and the North Smithfield High School Class of 1971 Scholarship Fund. He is married to Debbie
30 Keene and they have a son, a daughter and two grandchildren; now, therefore be it

31 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
32 Providence Plantations hereby congratulates Brigadier General, Retired, Richard F. Keene on his
33 retirement from the United States Army after many years of distinguished and devoted service to
34 our nation and the citizens of Rhode Island; and be it further

- 1 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
- 2 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Brigadier General, Retired, Richard F. Keene.

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