

2022 -- H 8357

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LC006182
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2022

HOUSE RESOLUTION

HONORING JOE AND ROSA DAPONTE ON BEING NAMED CHIEF MARSHALS OF THE
2022 BRISTOL FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION

Introduced By: Representatives Donovan, Speakman, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Filippi,
Shallcross Smith, Fellela, Fogarty, Cassar, and Cortvriend

Date Introduced: June 21, 2022

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, The Bristol, Rhode Island, Fourth of July Celebration was founded in 1785,
2 and is the oldest Fourth of July celebration in the United States; and

3 WHEREAS, Beginning in 1826, Chief Marshals have been chosen annually. This high
4 honor has always been bestowed on Bristol residents who have given their time in service to the
5 community. It is therefore fitting that Joe and Rosa DaPonte have been chosen as the 237th Chief
6 Marshals of the Bristol 4th of July celebrations; and

7 WHEREAS, Joe and Rosa DaPonte immigrated to Bristol from the Azores, with Joe
8 arriving in 1973, and Rosa arriving in 1980, after meeting and falling in love with Joe; and

9 WHEREAS, Hardworking and industrious, Joe had begun working the day after arriving
10 in Rhode Island, originally working multiple shifts and later finding employment at Pearson
11 Yacht, where he developed a passion for boat building and extensive knowledge of the craft by
12 studying blueprints and by subsequently working for some well-known boat builders; and

13 WHEREAS, Making their dreams a reality, Joe and Rosa began their successful boat
14 building business in a 4,000 square foot building on Metacom Avenue in April of 1998, and in
15 2005, bought some land and built a larger complex for their quickly growing enterprise.
16 Eventually, the couple's two sons, Cesar and Craig, also joined the company; and

17 WHEREAS, Recognized as one of the foremost, innovative, authorities in composite boat
18 building and tool making, the company focuses on their own brand of boats, with about eleven
19 different models, and most recently, launched their largest model to date. They have been

1 honored for building two “Boats of the Year” as the North American Builder for J/Boats, first by
2 Sailing World for building the J/70, and recently by Cruising World for building the J/95; and

3 WHEREAS, Since moving to Bristol, Joe and Rosa have been devoted parishioners and
4 volunteers at St. Elizabeth’s Church. Joe also enjoys fishing, golfing, and spending time with his
5 family and in addition to helping out with fundraising at the church, Rosa likes cooking,
6 gardening, and boating; and

7 WHEREAS, Over the past four decades, Joe and Rosa DaPonte have exhibited
8 outstanding devotion and distinction within the Bristol community, have had a meaningful impact
9 on the lives of many, and are surely deserving of being named Chief Marshals of the Bristol
10 Fourth of July Celebrations; now, therefore be it

11 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
12 congratulates Joe and Rosa DaPonte on being named Chief Marshals of the 2022 Bristol, Rhode
13 Island, Fourth of July Celebration; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
15 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Joe and Rosa DaPonte.

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