

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2011

JOINT RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING BLOCK ISLAND FOUNDER'S DAY ON JUNE 18, 2011,
SEMISEPTCENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF SETTLEMENT

Introduced By: Senator V. Susan Sosnowski

Date Introduced: June 09, 2011

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, The first founders to establish a community on Block Island were
2 Narragansett Native Americans, who inhabited the island for centuries and called it “Manisses”;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, In 1524 A.D., explorer Giovanni da Verrazzano, in service to the French
5 crown, sighted Block Island, and although they did not land, they named the island “Claudia,”
6 after the mother of King Francis I; and

7 WHEREAS, In 1614, Dutch explorer Adriaen Block set foot on the island and so loved
8 its beauty and charm that he named it Adriaen’s Eyelandt. He placed it on navigational charts,
9 which later recognized it as Block Island; and

10 WHEREAS, In 1660, Block Island was sold by the Massachusetts Bay Colony to a
11 company of sixteen men, most of whom constituted its first colonial settlers; and

12 WHEREAS, Block Island was surveyed and lotted out proportionally unto the purchasers
13 by their surveyor in 1661; and

14 WHEREAS, These early settlers on Block Island cleared the land and established thereon
15 a community of farmers and fishermen; and

16 WHEREAS, In 1672, Block Island received its town charter from the Rhode Island
17 General Assembly and was incorporated by the Colony of Rhode Island as “New Shoreham,
18 otherwise Block Island”; and

19 WHEREAS, The tiny community took hold with stubborn independence and prospered

1 despite wars, taxation, piracy, and invasion. In 1774, it declared its independence from the crown
2 by repudiating British duties on tea; and

3 WHEREAS, Through the ensuing centuries, Block Island remained a ruggedly
4 independent yet close-knit community while still fully partaking in global events; and

5 WHEREAS, The people of Block Island remain unabashedly proud of their Island and
6 their community. They strive to strike a balance among conservation of land, commercial and
7 residential development, and affordable living opportunities in today's economy; and

8 WHEREAS, This year, the current Block Island community celebrates the importance
9 and rich heritage of all who have come before to establish communities on, and "discover" Block
10 Island; now, therefore be it

11 RESOLVED, That this General Assembly of the State of Rhode Island and Providence
12 Plantations hereby recognizes that this smallest town in Rhode Island is large of heart, striking in
13 beauty, and great in importance; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That this General Assembly therefore extends hearty congratulations to
15 "New Shoreham, otherwise Block Island" on the occasion of its Founder's Day, on June 18th in
16 this year of 2011, and celebrated as Block Island's semiseptcentennial, or 350th, anniversary year;
17 and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to
19 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Frances Migliaccio, Co-Chair of the Block
20 Island Semiseptcentennial Committee.

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