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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2014

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SENATE RESOLUTION

CONGRATULATING FATHER PHILIP G. SALOIS FOR RECEIVING THE VETERAN OF  
THE YEAR AWARD FOR 2014 FROM THE UNITED VETERANS' COUNCIL OF  
WOONSOCKET

Introduced By: Senators Cote, Picard, and Jabour

Date Introduced: January 21, 2014

Referred To: Placed on the Senate Consent Calendar

1 WHEREAS, Father Philip G. Salois currently serves as Chief Chaplain for the Veterans'  
2 Administration Boston Healthcare System, Chaplain for the VA New England Healthcare  
3 System, and President of the Lincoln Vietnam Veterans' Post 818. Father Salois was honored by  
4 the United Veterans' Council of Woonsocket for his lifelong work in helping Vietnam veterans  
5 and their families to overcome the trauma that results from combat and loss of life; and

6 WHEREAS, Before becoming a Priest, Father Salois served in Vietnam with the 199th  
7 Light Infantry Brigade. Armed only with a grenade launcher, he and a buddy braved the front and  
8 enemy fire to rescue comrades, despite the grave danger they faced. "Bringing bodies home, alive  
9 or not, was the objective." In the midst of all this chaos, confusion, violence and death, Philip G.  
10 Salois made a promise to himself that if he returned home without injury, he would acknowledge  
11 his destiny to God, and spend the rest of his life serving God, the Church and humanity; and

12 WHEREAS, Five years later, Salois answered the calling. After receiving the Silver Star  
13 for combat duty and his military service, Salois left the United States Army to join the Catholic  
14 Ministry at LaSalette in North Attleboro, Massachusetts; and

15 WHEREAS, Father Salois has over 44 years of exposure to combat stress, beginning with  
16 his own six-year experience in Vietnam, and through his service from 1984 to the present-day as  
17 a Priest helping those, like himself, who faced combat. Father Salois has also been a board  
18 certified expert in traumatic stress since 2001, and is fluent in French and semi-fluent in Spanish;  
19 and

1           WHEREAS, Father Salois has served as National Chaplain to the Vietnam Veterans of  
2 America organization since 1994, and as Massachusetts Department Chaplain to the American  
3 Legion since 1993. Other organizations for which Father Salois is a well-known supporter include  
4 AMVETS, Catholic War Veterans, Disabled American Veterans, Knights of Columbus, Military  
5 Chaplains Association, National Association of Veterans' Affairs Chaplains, National Conference  
6 of Veterans' Affairs Catholic Chaplains, and the Reserve Officers Association; and

7           WHEREAS, In addition to receiving the prestigious Silver Star, Father Salois has  
8 received numerous other military awards including the Meritorious Service Medal, the Combat  
9 Infantryman's Badge, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, the  
10 Air Medal, the Army Commendation Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army  
11 Achievement Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense  
12 Service Medal, and the DAV Distinguished VA Employee of the Year Award; and

13           WHEREAS, Father Salois has also received numerous clergy awards including being the  
14 National Recipient of the Celtic Cross Award from the Catholic Veterans of America, the Life  
15 Achievement Award for Outstanding Service to the Veteran Community from Vietnamese-  
16 American Veterans of New England and Canada, the Veterans' Affairs Chaplain of the Year  
17 Award from the Military Chaplains Associations, the Chapel of Four Chaplains Humanitarian  
18 Award, the Chaplain of Four Chaplains Bronze Medallion Award, and the Knights of Columbus  
19 Lantern Award; now, therefore be it

20           RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
21 hereby congratulates Father Philip G. Salois for receiving the Veteran of the Year Award for  
22 2014 from the United Veterans' Council of Woonsocket; and be it further

23           RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
24 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Father Philip G. Salois.

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