

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2012

SENATE RESOLUTION

**HONORING MATTHEW GOYETTE FOR HIS VOLUNTEER WORK ON THE
BLACKSTONE RIVER VALLEY NATIONAL HERITAGE CORRIDOR**

Introduced By: Senators Cote, Sen Picard, Nesselbush, E O'Neill, and Crowley

Date Introduced: January 19, 2012

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, The Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor stretches over
2 350,000 acres in central Massachusetts and central Rhode Island, from Worcester to Providence,
3 and its valley is recognized as the birthplace of the Industrial Revolution in the United States; and

4 WHEREAS, Matthew Goyette has exhibited outstanding devotion to the Blackstone
5 River Valley National Heritage Corridor through exemplary volunteer work; and

6 WHEREAS, Matthew has been a model of commitment and service, spending countless
7 hours over the last ten years to make the Corridor more accessible to all; and

8 WHEREAS, Inspired by a disabled aunt, Matthew has enhanced the experience of vision-
9 and hearing-impaired visitors to the Corridor. He conducts tours using American Sign Language
10 and has utilized a brailer, given to him by his aunt, to create impressive braille translations of
11 informational plaques along the parks and paths; and

12 WHEREAS, An autodidact, Matthew's deep knowledge of the Blackstone River Valley
13 National Heritage Corridor is largely self-taught, an impressive feat for a person determined not
14 to be defined by a traumatic brain injury and several years of rehabilitation, who went on to
15 graduate near the top of his class at the Woonsocket Area Career and Technical Center; and

16 WHEREAS, Matthew's giving nature and desire to help others can be seen throughout
17 Woonsocket, where he coaches at the Special Olympics and volunteers at an animal shelter, while
18 being ever vigilant to help those in need, having been trained in C.P.R., First Aid, and A.E.D.;
19 and

1 WHEREAS, Matthew's considerable charitable work has touched many lives and has
2 enriched the lives of the residents and visitors to the Blackstone Valley; now, therefore be it

3 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
4 hereby honors Matthew Goyette, an exceptional man who is truly deserving of the gratitude of the
5 people of Rhode Island; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to
7 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Matthew Goyette.

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