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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2010

SENATE RESOLUTION

CONGRATULATING REVEREND RICHARD P. DESAULNIERS ON THE OCCASION OF
THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS ORDINATION

Introduced By: Senator Daniel P. Connors

Date Introduced: May 18, 2010

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, Reverend Richard P. Desaulniers is the oldest of five children born to
2 Robert and Jeanne Desaulniers on June 9th of 1944. He grew up in Woonsocket, attending Mt. St.
3 Francis Elementary School and Precious Blood Junior High School; and

4 WHEREAS, After attaining his diploma from Our Lady of Providence Seminary High
5 School, Father Desaulniers graduated from its college with a Bachelor of Arts degree. He
6 continued his studies at St. Bernard Seminary in Rochester and was granted a Master of Divinity
7 degree in 1969, and completed his theological studies with a Master of Theology degree in 1970;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Ordained to the holy priesthood on May 23rd of 1970 by the Most Reverend
10 Russell J. McVinney, D.D., Father Desaulniers celebrated his first Mass at Precious Blood
11 Church in Woonsocket; and

12 WHEREAS, Originally assigned to St. Jean-Baptiste Church in Pawtucket, Father
13 Desaulniers later served at St. Joseph's Church in Woonsocket, St. Rita's Church in Warwick,
14 and St. Francis of Assisi in Wakefield. He was named Associate Pastor at St. James Church in
15 Manville in 1984, and was appointed as Pastor in 1993. He currently serves as Chaplain of the
16 Manville Fire Department and is a member of the Town of Lincoln's Personnel Board; and

17 WHEREAS, In addition to providing his many parishioners with leadership and spiritual
18 guidance, Father Desaulniers has also proven to be a dynamic force within the community. He
19 joined hands with various civic groups, including serving as a member of the Social Progress

1 Action Corporation Board of Directors, as Chaplain and Treasurer of the Woonsocket Jaycees,
2 and as Chaplain of the Rhode Island Jaycees; and

3 WHEREAS, Father Desaulniers was also Chair of the Woonsocket School Curriculum
4 Review Committee; President and Treasurer of the Woonsocket Clergy Association; a board
5 member of the Mt. St. Francis Day Care, the Diocesan Grievance Committee, and the Diocesan
6 Priests' Council; and Chaplain of the Woonsocket Fire Department; and

7 WHEREAS, Father Desaulniers has spent most of his life in devout service to God.
8 Through that unification, he has served and blessed the faithful, enriched the spiritual lives of
9 many Rhode Islanders, and earned our total respect and admiration for his devotion and his many
10 accomplishments; now, therefore be it

11 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations is
12 hereby pleased to honor and congratulate Father Richard P. Desaulniers on the joyous occasion of
13 the 40th Anniversary of his Ordination. May he have good health and many more years of
14 benevolent service to his fellow man; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to
16 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Father Richard P. Desaulniers.

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