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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2020

SENATE RESOLUTION

THANKING JUSTICE OF THE RHODE ISLAND SUPREME COURT, FRANCIS X. FLAHERTY, FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Senators McCaffrey, Ruggerio, Goodwin, Coyne, and Archambault

Date Introduced: December 17, 2020

Referred To: Placed on the Senate Consent Calendar

1 WHEREAS, The Honorable Francis X. Flaherty, a Justice of the Rhode Island Supreme
2 Court, and highly respected adjudicator, is retiring on December 31, 2020, after seventeen years
3 on the bench and more than three decades of public service; and

4 WHEREAS, Laying the foundation for his eminent career, Justice Flaherty attended
5 Bishop Hendricken High School, earned his Bachelor's degree from Providence College, and
6 attained his Juris Doctor from Suffolk University Law School. Between college and law school,
7 he served our country with honor and distinction in the United States Army, including
8 deployment to Vietnam where he experienced about 80 firefights and earned three Bronze Stars
9 for Valor as a platoon leader; and

10 WHEREAS, Justice Flaherty has led a life replete with a panoply of life experiences and
11 prodigious accomplishments, starting as a paperboy, and ultimately culminating in his
12 appointment to the Supreme Court by then-Governor Donald Carcieri in 2003. In the interim, he
13 was an Assistant City Solicitor in Warwick, was elected to the Warwick City Council from 1979
14 to 1985, successfully ran for Mayor of Warwick, serving from 1985 through 1990, served as
15 President of the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns in 1988 and 1989, and in 1998, was
16 named to the Board of Governors for Higher Education until 2003, when he was appointed to the
17 Rhode Island Supreme Court; and

18 WHEREAS, The Rhode Island Supreme Court is the final interpreter of state law, often
19 referred to as "the court of last resort." Throughout his tenure on the bench, Justice Flaherty's

1 brilliant mind and innate ability to adjudicate his caseload in a just and timely manner has enabled
2 him to consider innumerable significant cases affecting the health, welfare, and the public's right
3 to know in a conscientious and consistent manner; and

4 WHEREAS, Professionally, Justice Flaherty also has been a member of the Rhode Island
5 Bar Association, the American Bar Association, and has served as President of the Catholic legal
6 group, the St. Thomas More Society of Rhode Island; and

7 WHEREAS, Justice Flaherty's lifelong service to the people of Rhode Island has
8 garnered a reputation for diligence, fairness, and erudition that has earned him the respect and
9 admiration of his peers and the gratitude of the people of our state, and he has wholly
10 distinguished himself as a person worthy of our recognition and admiration; now, therefore be it

11 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island thanks Justice of the Rhode
12 Island Supreme Court, Francis X. Flaherty, for his service to the people of the State of Rhode
13 Island. We moreover extend our best wishes for his continued success, health, and fulfillment;
14 and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
16 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the Honorable Francis X. Flaherty.

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