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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

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SENATE RESOLUTION

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PORTUGUESE CARNATION  
REVOLUTION WHICH TRANSFORMED PORTUGAL INTO A DEMOCRATIC NATION

Introduced By: Senators de la Cruz, and Bissaillon

Date Introduced: April 23, 2024

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1           WHEREAS, In May of 1926, a coup resulted in the implementation of authoritarian rule  
2 in Portugal for almost a half-century. In 1933, the regime was named the Estado Novo, (New  
3 State) and was led until 1968 by authoritarian leader Antonio de Oliveira Salazar; and

4           WHEREAS, Through the half-century of authoritarian rule, the regime used the PIDE,  
5 Political Police, to persecute opponents of the regime, many of whom were tortured, imprisoned  
6 and killed. The ruling regime also ran phony elections in which they were usually the only  
7 candidates on the ballot; and

8           WHEREAS, At the same time, Portugal's citizens were being oppressed at home, the  
9 regime was cruelly in control of its imperialist possessions in Africa and Asia; and

10          WHEREAS, On April 25, 1974, liberal military officers in Lisbon overthrew the regime,  
11 which led to the implementation of significant social, economic, and political changes in Portugal  
12 and its overseas colonies. In short time, Portugal became a true democracy with free and fair  
13 elections, and freedoms of speech and the press, and its overseas colonies were granted  
14 independence; and

15          WHEREAS, The "Carnation Revolution" got its name in recognition of the fact that  
16 almost no violence took place during the revolution, and in honor of restaurant worker Celeste  
17 Caeiro, who offered carnations to the soldiers when the people took to the streets to celebrate the  
18 ending of the dictatorship. Today, the Nation of Portugal celebrates April 25th of each year as a  
19 national holiday to commemorate this historic event. It is called Dia da Liberdade, which means

1 Freedom Day; now, therefore be it

2 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island hereby celebrates the 50th  
3 Anniversary of the Carnation Revolution in Portugal on April 25th, 2024, which ended  
4 authoritarian rule and brought democracy to Portugal; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
6 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the Prime Minister of Portugal, Luis  
7 Montenegro.

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