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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

HOUSE RESOLUTION

HONORING PRIVATE RYAN GRIFFIN OF THE CITY OF CENTRAL FALLS FIRE
DEPARTMENT

Introduced By: Representatives Giraldo, Barros, McLaughlin, Casey, and Vella-
Wilkinson

Date Introduced: February 23, 2021

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, As all firefighters know and carry with them into each and every fire
2 situation they encounter, all fires can become erratic, unpredictable, and immensely dangerous;
3 yet they consistently face the flames and protect our country's citizenry and our property, often
4 going far and beyond the call of duty; and

5 WHEREAS, On February 7th of 2021, in the middle of the night, off-duty firefighter
6 Private Ryan Griffin was headed toward the fire station to work as a dispatcher for the night shift.
7 As he drove down Dexter Street in the City of Central Falls, he began to notice an inordinate
8 amount of smoke in the air; and

9 WHEREAS, Private Griffin soon discovered the cause. Heavy smoke was billowing from
10 the roof and eaves of a one and a half story home. He quickly pulled over and called the station as
11 he approached the burning home, but was initially blocked from access by a six-foot locked gate
12 across the driveway; and

13 WHEREAS, As Private Griffin made his way to the front of the home, he heard a
14 woman's "blood-curdling" screams for help coming from a second floor window. After visually
15 locating the woman, he went to the rear of the home to try to gain entry. Unfortunately, fire was
16 coming from the second floor rear door, which made entry impossible; and

17 WHEREAS, Returning to the window, Private Griffin attempted to convince the
18 frightened women to climb onto the fire escape but she was too scared and clung to her dog just
19 inside the window. With the fire quickly intensifying, he knew there was little time left before

1 flames would fully engulf the second floor; and

2 WHEREAS, Taking a different approach, Private Griffin convinced the woman to throw
3 her dog down into a snowbank, after which she calmed enough for him to persuade her to climb
4 out and jump into his arms. The woman and her dog were miraculously saved without injury, and
5 shortly thereafter, fire apparatus arrived and with the assistance of mutual aid departments, the
6 fire was extinguished; and

7 WHEREAS, Through the quick thinking and amazingly heroic efforts of Private Ryan
8 Griffin, a woman and her dog still have a future, and he is truly deserving of our gratitude,
9 admiration, and recognition; now, therefore be it

10 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
11 recognizes and thanks Private Ryan Griffin for his heroic actions on that fateful night and for his
12 dedication and service to the people of the City of Central Falls and the State; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
14 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Private Ryan Griffin of the City of Central
15 Falls Fire Department.

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