

**2017 -- H 5814**

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LC001522  
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**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017**

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**H O U S E R E S O L U T I O N**

**JOYFULLY CELEBRATING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF WILLIAM FREDRICK GAGNE  
ON MARCH 4, 2017**

Introduced By: Representatives O'Brien, Shekarchi, Keable, and Costantino

Date Introduced: March 01, 2017

Referred To: House read and passed

1           WHEREAS, In the year 1917, President John F. Kennedy was born, Jeanette Rankin of  
2 Montana became the first woman to serve in the United States Congress, and the United States  
3 entered World War I. A Chevrolet automobile cost \$490 dollars, a newspaper cost one cent, a  
4 roasting chicken went for 32 cents per pound, and a women's skirt cost three dollars and seventy-  
5 seven cents; and

6           WHEREAS, William Fredrick Gagne was born on March 4, 1917, in Ipswich  
7 Massachusetts, the seventh of nine siblings, to Napoleon Gagne and Lena La Blanc. His family  
8 moved to Central Falls, Rhode Island, in 1925, where he attended school. In 1932, in the midst of  
9 the Great Depression, William went to work for Bill's Auto Parts to help the family; and

10           WHEREAS, William has been a passionate motorcyclist since he was sixteen and  
11 belonged to the Jessie Roamers Motorcycle Club, a club that supported the renowned motorcycle  
12 racing champion, Jessie James. It was at this time that he met Bertha Szeliga, marrying her  
13 shortly thereafter. Together, they bought their Lincoln home in 1939, and William still resides  
14 there today; and

15           WHEREAS, William was a member of the United States Army in World War II and  
16 served our nation with honor and distinction. He voluntarily joined the 809th Corp of Army Air  
17 Corp Combat Engineers, and was deployed to the Mediterranean region where he took part in five  
18 amphibious invasions including North Africa, Sicily, southern Italy, central Italy, and southern  
19 France. The 809th were part of General Patton's famous 3rd Army; and

1           WHEREAS, After earning an Honorable Discharge after the war, William returned home  
2 to his wife and his former place of employment, Bill's Auto Parts, where he was promoted to the  
3 position of General Manager, a title he held for seventy years; now, therefore be it

4           RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and  
5 Providence Plantations hereby joyously celebrates the 100th birthday of William Fredrick Gagne  
6 on March 4, 2017, and we thank him for his devoted service to our nation during World War II;  
7 and be it further

8           RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
9 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Mr. William Fredrick Gagne.

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