

2019 -- H 6144

=====
LC002051
=====

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019

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

**HONORING AND RECOGNIZING JOHN GREGORY FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE
AND BUSINESSES IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

Introduced By: Representatives Newberry, Mattiello, Shekarchi, Filippi, and Ackerman

Date Introduced: May 23, 2019

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, To the immense good fortune of the citizens of Burrillville, Central Falls,
2 Cumberland, Foster, Glocester, Johnston, Lincoln, North Providence, North Smithfield,
3 Pawtucket, Scituate, Smithfield, and Woonsocket, John Gregory joined the staff of the Northern
4 Rhode Island Chamber of Commerce in 1992; and

5 WHEREAS, The goal of the Northern Rhode Island Chamber of Commerce is to
6 strengthen the "economic climate through business leadership that fosters member and
7 community prosperity"; and

8 WHEREAS, With virtually no background in managing an organization, no access to the
9 Internet, and with the Chamber in dire financial straits, Mr. Gregory took the reins and
10 transformed the organization into a tour de force for those in the business community, with a
11 current membership of around 600, financial security, and broad support from many areas; and

12 WHEREAS, By monitoring legislation on federal, state and local levels, and working
13 closely with dozens of mayors and town administrators, the Chamber advocates on behalf of the
14 communities it serves, as well as helping businesses to get started and succeed, networking,
15 workforce development, and educational components to develop a stronger base of potential hires
16 for Rhode Island's companies; and

17 WHEREAS, Mr. Gregory considers the founding of the R.I. Chamber of Commerce
18 Coalition and helping to start the R.I. Business Coalition, to be two of his greatest
19 accomplishments, and convincing business owners in Rhode Island, who have been part of other

1 good chambers of commerce, that the Northern Rhode Island Chamber of Commerce is "better
2 than good" to be one of his greatest challenges; and

3 WHEREAS, A lifelong resident of the Town of North Smithfield, Mr. Gregory will be
4 retiring to spend some much deserved leisure time with his wife of 32 years, Barbara, who is also
5 an "ex-chamber person," and his two children, Shawn and Meredith, and five grandchildren,
6 although he does plan to stay involved with local businesses and community efforts; and

7 WHEREAS, John Gregory has demonstrated a deep-rooted commitment to Rhode
8 Island's business community and has earned the respect of the leaders and citizens of this great
9 state, and we are honored to join in the celebration of his retirement; now, therefore be it

10 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
11 Providence Plantations hereby recognizes and honors John Gregory for the enormous
12 contributions he has made to improving the state's business community. We moreover extend our
13 collective thanks and immense gratitude, and wish him the very best of health and continued
14 success; 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 Mr. John Gregory.

=====
LC002051
=====