

2014 -- H 7907

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2014

HOUSE RESOLUTION

HONORING STEVEN F. SMITH ON HIS RETIREMENT AS PRESIDENT OF THE
PROVIDENCE TEACHERS UNION AND FOR MORE THAN THREE DECADES OF
DEDICATION TO STUDENTS IN THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE

Introduced By: Representatives DeSimone, Carnevale, O'Brien, Lombardi, and Lima

Date Introduced: March 11, 2014

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, Steven Smith is a graduate of Classical High School and attained his
2 Bachelor's degree in Secondary Education-History from Rhode Island College. He began his
3 career in education thirty-three years ago as a teacher in Providence's public schools; and

4 WHEREAS, In 2003, Mr. Smith began focusing his talents, determination, and
5 knowledge on behalf of educators as President of the Providence Teachers Union, a professional
6 organization with more than 2000 members; and

7 WHEREAS, During his tenure as President, Mr. Smith fought for fairness in teacher's
8 contracts combined with beneficial advances for students in the classrooms. He was instrumental
9 in instituting Peer Assistance and Review programs to support newly hired teachers as well as
10 enhance the abilities of teachers throughout their employment; and

11 WHEREAS, In addition, Mr. Smith is credited with forging a stronger partnership and
12 better relations between the local municipal government and the Teachers Union, as well as
13 creating the first Labor-Management EMO in the nation; and

14 WHEREAS, In addition to leading the Providence Teachers Union and serving in
15 numerous teaching and educational positions within the city's public schools, Mr. Smith also
16 served the people of Providence, in the Silver Lake neighborhood, at the Rhode Island State
17 House as a Representative from January of 1989 until December of 2008; and

18 WHEREAS, After more than three decades in the schools, and eleven years as President
19 of the Union, Mr. Smith retired in February of 2014, but the accomplishments and strides he has

1 made for students, as well as educational professionals in this state, will be felt for many
2 generations to come; now, therefore be it

3 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
4 Providence Plantations hereby honors and commends Steven F. Smith for eleven years of service
5 as President of the Providence Teachers Union. We thank him for all his efforts, and wish him
6 good health, fulfillment, and much success in all his future endeavors; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
8 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Steven F. Smith.

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