

2018 -- H 8071

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2018

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

**RECOGNIZING AND CONGRATULATING THE HONORABLE MARVIN L. ABNEY ON
BEING SELECTED AS A 2018 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI BY THE TEXARKANA
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Introduced By: Representatives Mattiello, Shekarchi, Morgan, Edwards, and Marshall

Date Introduced: April 10, 2018

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, Annually, the Texarkana Independent School District Board of Trustees
2 recognizes members of their alumni who have brought benefit to their fellow citizens,
3 demonstrated service to community, exhibited outstanding leadership and ethical standards, and
4 attained significant personal and professional achievements. One of this year's most-deserving
5 recipients is our good friend and colleague Representative Marvin Abney; and

6 WHEREAS, Marvin Abney graduated with honors from Dunbar High School and
7 attended Texarkana Jr. College before completing his Bachelor's degree in Public Administration
8 from Stephen F. Austin State University. He continued his education, earning a Master's degree in
9 Management from Webster University, a Master of Business Administration degree from the
10 University of Rhode Island, and a certificate of advanced graduate study in educational leadership
11 from Johnson & Wales University; and

12 WHEREAS, For twenty years, Mr. Abney served our country with honor and distinction
13 in the United States Army where he completed Officer Candidate School and Airborne training,
14 graduated from the United States Army Command and General Staff College, and served in
15 several positions, including commanding a United States detachment for the NATO Headquarters
16 in Belgium; and

17 WHEREAS, Over the ensuing years, Mr. Abney served the state in myriad capacities.
18 He was the interim Director of Human Resources Development for the State of Rhode Island's
19 Department of Secondary and Elementary Education, and in November of 2012, was elected to

1 the Rhode Island House of Representatives serving the residents of Newport and Middletown in
2 District 73; and

3 WHEREAS, Earning the utmost respect of his peers, Representative Abney was named
4 Chairman of the House Finance Committee in May 2016, and also serves on the House
5 Committee on Veterans' Affairs; and

6 WHEREAS, During his tenure in the House, Chairman Abney was the lead sponsor of
7 the Fiscal Year 2018 state budget that funded the first year of the car tax six-year phase-out plan,
8 raised the minimum wage, restored free bus fares for the elderly and disabled, and included a
9 pilot program to provide two years of free tuition at CCRI; and

10 WHEREAS, On the educational front, Representative Abney often speaks to the state's
11 students and parents about the vital need for young people to get a good education, stay drug and
12 alcohol free, and embrace racial tolerance; and

13 WHEREAS, Representative Abney and his wife, Cheryl Lynn, actively advocate and
14 promote the adoption of minority children. Being the devoted parents of Marvin L. Abney II,
15 Christian A. Abney, and Tess A. Abney, and grandparents of Sierra, Jade, Mia and Dakota, has
16 instilled the couple with the desire to give all children the kind of life and opportunities in life that
17 they deserve; and

18 WHEREAS, In addition to his family and rigorous duties at the State House, Chairman
19 Abney somehow finds the time and energy to serve the community on the Board of Corporators
20 for BankNewport, the Board of Directors of the Redwood Library & Athenaeum, and as the Vice-
21 Chair of the Budget and Revenue Committee of the National Council of State Legislatures. He
22 has also served as a Vice-President on the Executive Board for the Narragansett Boy Scouts
23 Council, as President of the Newport Education Foundation, and as the President of the Parent
24 Teachers Association of American NATO Schools, Mons Belgium, to name but a few of his
25 myriad philanthropic endeavors; and

26 WHEREAS, Martin Luther King, Jr. was quoted as saying, "Every man must decide
27 whether he will walk in the light of creative altruism or in the darkness of destructive
28 selfishness." The Honorable Marvin Abney's life has been a testament to making the right choices
29 and has been replete with devotion to his family, his constituency, our state, and this country, and
30 we are exultant to honor and salute him for this illustrious award and his many inspiring
31 achievements; now, therefore be it

32 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
33 Providence Plantations hereby recognizes and congratulates Representative Marvin Abney on
34 being selected as one of the Texarkana Independent School District's 2018 Distinguished Alumni.

1 We can think of no one who deserves this distinction more than Chairman Abney and we wish
2 him the very best of health and happiness in all his endeavors; and

3 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
4 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the Honorable Marvin Abney.

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