

2020 -- H 8150

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2020

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

**HONORING REPRESENTATIVE JOSEPH S. ALMEIDA FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE
PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

Introduced By: Representatives Shekarchi, Blazejewski, and Filippi

Date Introduced: December 14, 2020

Referred To: Placed on the House Consent Calendar

1 WHEREAS, The Honorable Joseph S. Almeida has announced his retirement from the
2 Rhode Island House of Representatives, after having served the people of the South Side and
3 Washington Park neighborhoods in the City of Providence in District 12 for twenty years; and

4 WHEREAS, Upon graduation from La Salle Academy, Joseph Almeida served our
5 nation as a United States Marine for six years, and upon discharge, attended what was then Roger
6 Williams College; and

7 WHEREAS, For the next twenty years, Joe served in the Providence Police Department,
8 where he earned myriad awards and distinctions, and held numerous positions, including serving
9 as a hostage negotiator and the first black member of Providence’s SWAT team. He also co-
10 founded the Rhode Island Minority Police Association during those years. After retiring from the
11 Department, he owned and operated a local bar for twenty years, and is currently the owner of
12 Essence Construction; and

13 WHEREAS, In November of 1998, Representative Almeida was first elected to the
14 Rhode Island House of Representatives. Demonstrating an unwavering commitment to his
15 constituency, he has been a strong voice for minorities, low-income families, civil rights, fair
16 housing, and small businesses. Most notably, he was the sponsor of the successful “Driving
17 While Black” legislation, the Comprehensive Community–Police Relationship Act, legislation
18 that paved the way for restoring voting rights to people on probation or parole for a felony
19 conviction, and was a cosponsor of bills that cut red tape for minority businesses seeking to be

1 certified as minority business enterprises, to name just of few of his many accomplishments; and

2 WHEREAS, Earning the respect of his colleagues, Representative Almeida has served as
3 a Deputy Majority Leader, Chair of the Rhode Island Minority Leadership/Legislative Caucus,
4 Vice Chair of the House Labor Committee, Secretary of the Separation of Powers Committee,
5 and as a member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, the Committee on Highway Safety, and the
6 Martin Luther King Day Commission; and

7 WHEREAS, In addition, Representative Almeida helped form the House Police and
8 Firefighters Caucus to focus on the training and issues of first responders, and most recently, has
9 been a member of the House Committee on Judiciary; and

10 WHEREAS, Representative Almeida has improved the lives of so many people through
11 his diligent efforts, and he will be greatly missed in the House Chamber; now, therefore be it

12 WHEREAS, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
13 honors and thanks Representative Joseph S. Almeida for his service to the people of Providence
14 and our State. We moreover wish him and his wife, Zoraida, best wishes and good health for
15 many years to come; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
17 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the Honorable Joseph S. Almeida.

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