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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

SENATE RESOLUTION

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COMMUNITY PLAYERS

Introduced By: Senator Meghan E. Kallman

Date Introduced: April 06, 2021

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, The Community Players, Rhode Island's oldest Community Theater, was
2 conceived in 1920, by a troupe of "dreamers" in the City of Pawtucket, dedicated to having fun
3 and encouraging an interest in dramatics; and

4 WHEREAS, On May 9, 1921, The Community Players presented their first performance,
5 "Milestones", at the Old Star Theatre on Main Street in Pawtucket. It was a resounding success
6 that benefited the Associated Charities; and

7 WHEREAS, In the fall of that same year, The Players presented "Hamilton" to
8 correspond with the City's 250th Anniversary celebration. It was once again a sell-out; and

9 WHEREAS, In 1971, as the City observed its tricentennial, The Players, who were
10 celebrating their 50th Anniversary, provided highlights of various historic City events; and

11 WHEREAS, The Players also present a yearly program of plays, that culturally enrich
12 Pawtucket and the Blackstone Valley area. Membership has grown exponentially over the years
13 with nearly 600 current members "offering nine nights of performances for musicals and six
14 nights for non-musicals during four yearly productions"; and

15 WHEREAS, Many of The Players proceeds have gone to charitable organizations
16 including more than \$1,000 to The Blackstone Valley Emergency Food Center. They also held a
17 performance benefiting the Retarded Children's Association of the Blackstone Valley, which
18 honored them with a special award for their contribution, and have done performances for local
19 PTA's and Women's Councils, Lion's Club, Quota Club, Kiwanis, Friends of the Library, Rotary,
20 League of Women Voters, to name but a few; and

1 WHEREAS, Currently located at the After the Star Theatre, The Players have had many
2 homes over the years, including the old Bijou Theatre on Broad Street, The Grand Army Hall on
3 Exchange Street, then to the former Jenks Junior High, the Pawtucket Senior High School
4 buildings, the Oak Hill Tennis Club, the Slater Park boathouse, and auditoriums at the Pawtucket
5 Congregational Church and St. Martin's Church; and

6 WHEREAS, Stated best by the Players themselves, "Good Times and Bum Times, We've
7 Seen Them All and, My Dear, We're Still Here Here!"; now, therefore be it

8 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island hereby joins the decades of
9 volunteers, performers, behind the scenes workers, and audiences in celebrating the 100th
10 Anniversary of The Community Players and wishes them many more decades of continued
11 success; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
13 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Ed Mastriano, President of The Community
14 Players.

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