

2019 -- S 0875

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019

SENATE RESOLUTION

PROCLAIMING THE WEEK OF MAY 12 THROUGH MAY 18, 2019, TO BE "NATIONAL POLICE WEEK" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND, IN REMEMBRANCE OF ALL POLICE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS WHO HAVE LOST THEIR LIVES IN THE LINE OF DUTY

Introduced By: Senator Cynthia Armour Coyne

Date Introduced: May 15, 2019

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, In 1962, President John Kennedy signed a proclamation declaring May 15th
2 of each year to be National Police Officers Memorial Day and the week in which May 15 falls to
3 be National Police Week. In 1994, President William Jefferson Clinton directed that the United
4 States Flag be flown at half-staff every May 15th; and

5 WHEREAS, This year, during the week of May 12 through May 18, we remember and
6 honor all the brave men and women serving as police and law enforcement officers who through
7 the years have made the ultimate sacrifice in order to protect the public and in service to our
8 nation; and

9 WHEREAS, The FBI database states that from 2008 to 2018, a total of 1,167 police
10 officers lost their lives in the line of duty across the United States, 135 in 2016, 129 in 2017, and
11 144 in 2018, an increase of 12 percent from 2017; and

12 WHEREAS, According to the Officer Down Memorial Page (ODMP), a nonprofit
13 organization that keeps track of all statistics and facts related to law enforcement officers killed in
14 the line of duty, since 1791, there have sadly been 23,305 known line-of-duty deaths, including
15 45 from the State of Rhode Island; and

16 WHEREAS, Firearms-related fatalities were the leading cause of officer deaths in 2018,
17 with 52 officers killed in this manner. This represents a 13 percent increase from 2017. Fifty
18 officers perished in 2018 due to traffic-related incidents, and another forty-two officers died due

1 to other causes; and

2 WHEREAS, Each year during National Police Week, approximately 25,000 to 40,000
3 attendees congregate in Washington D.C. at the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial
4 where they attend vigils and services to honor the memory of all the police and law enforcement
5 officers who have perished in service to our nation; now, therefore be it

6 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
7 hereby proclaims the week of May 12 through May 18, 2019, to be "National Police Week" in the
8 State of Rhode Island; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
10 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the International Brotherhood of Police
11 Officers, and Mr. Chuck Canterbury, National President, Fraternal Order of Police.

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