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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2013

SENATE RESOLUTION

CONGRATULATING THE MEMBERS OF THE 107TH SIGNAL COMPANY ON THE 50TH
ANNIVERSARY OF THEIR SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY

Introduced By: Senators Ciccone, Paiva Weed, Walaska, Felag, and Pichardo

Date Introduced: May 09, 2013

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, On April 11th of 1968, Army National Guard units from seventeen states
2 were Federalized and alerted with orders to active duty on May 13, 1968. Eight units of the Army
3 National Guard, with a total strength of more than 3,000 men, subsequently served on active duty
4 in Vietnam; and

5 WHEREAS, In 1967, the 107th Signal Company was a unit of approximately 125 men.
6 Upon the company's call to active duty, it deployed to Ft. Devens for training. The men attended
7 signal school to gain proficiency in Signal Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) and were
8 instructed in jungle warfare training; and

9 WHEREAS, With the addition of new men from other National Guard Units from within
10 Rhode Island, as well as regular Army Signal Cadre and command staff, the 107th Signal
11 Company, commanded by Captain Cecil James, numbered over 350 troops and became the only
12 Rhode Island National Guard unit activated for service in Vietnam; and

13 WHEREAS, On October 18th of 1968, Rhode Island's 107th Signal Company (Support),
14 arrived at its base camp in Long Binh, Republic of Vietnam, and assumed its mission of
15 establishing, operating, and maintaining three communications complexes in support of the 1st
16 Signal Brigade operations commanded by Brig. General Thomas M. Rienzi and the 972nd Signal
17 Battalion Commanded by LTC Donald Carmichael; and

18 WHEREAS, The 2.7 million troops that served in Vietnam faced artillery and snipers in
19 impenetrable jungles and endless tunnels, with 100 percent humidity and 100 degree

1 temperatures, surrounded by smells of rotting garbage and burning diesel fuel in a war zone and a
2 country that were incompatible with human life; and

3 WHEREAS, Members of the 107th Signal Company were awarded 11 Bronze Stars and
4 63 Army Commendation Medals. For the unit's participation in Vietnam, they were awarded
5 combat streamers which remained on their guidon for the following campaigns: Counter
6 Offensive Phase V, Counter Offensive Phase VI, Tet Counter Offensive and the Summer/Fall
7 1969 streamer; and

8 WHEREAS, Our country did its best to train these men to face unfathomable dangers, but
9 the force behind our forces was ultimately their loyalty to their "Band of Brothers," their love of
10 this country, and their willingness to do their duty in the name of God and freedom; and

11 WHEREAS, The 107th Signal Company courageously fought in the Vietnam conflict
12 from October 1968 to October 1969 and served a total of 19 months of Federalized duty. They
13 are our brothers, our sons, our husbands, our neighbors, and always, our heroes; now, therefore be
14 it

15 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
16 hereby honors, thanks, and congratulates the men of the 107th Signal Company on the 50th
17 Anniversary of their service to our country; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
19 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Mr. Frank Castellone.

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