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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019

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SENATE RESOLUTION

HONORING COLONEL THOMAS F. LEE ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT AS  
POLICE CHIEF OF THE PORTSMOUTH POLICE DEPARTMENT

Introduced By: Senator James Arthur Seveney

Date Introduced: June 18, 2019

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1           WHEREAS, Throughout history, our state has been propitiously blessed with men and  
2 women who are willing to step forward and safeguard our property and the liberty we hold so  
3 dear. These often unsung heroes go about the day-to-day task of upholding the laws of this state  
4 and it is fitting that we recognize their value and myriad contributions; and

5           WHEREAS, To the very good fortune of the citizens of Portsmouth, in 2013, Colonel  
6 Thomas Lee was named Chief of the Portsmouth Police Department, which gave him the  
7 responsibility of implementing and administrating the "effective and efficient operation and the  
8 enforcement of rules and regulations of all laws within the town's legal jurisdiction." He had  
9 previously served for thirty-four years with the Boston Police Department, where he retired with  
10 the rank of Deputy Superintendent; and

11           WHEREAS, During his six-year tenure with the Portsmouth Police Department, Chief  
12 Lee spearheaded the construction of a critically-needed and voter-approved new \$10 million  
13 police station. Under his leadership, the department also earned statewide accreditation from the  
14 Rhode Island Police Chief's In-State Accreditation Commission, and increased the force's  
15 diversification through the hiring of four new women officers and the appointment of the  
16 Department's first female Deputy Chief; and

17           WHEREAS, In addition, based on data collected by SafeHome.org., Portsmouth was  
18 named the safest community in Rhode Island in March. Chief Lee also created two new resource  
19 officer positions for the Town's schools, and a Citizen's Police Academy; and

1           WHEREAS, If called upon, today's police officers must not only be willing and able to  
2 "Protect and Serve" and be ready to step into deadly situations with proficiency and with little  
3 regard for their own safety, but they must also serve on a variety of professional and community  
4 associations. Chief Lee has worked continuously to build trust between the police and the  
5 residents of Portsmouth and has been described by his peers as, "an inspiration for all that work in  
6 the law enforcement community"; and

7           WHEREAS, The citizenry of Portsmouth lead far safer and more secure lives due to the  
8 extraordinary career of Col. Thomas Lee and he is eminently worthy of our emulation and  
9 acknowledgement; now, therefore be it

10          RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
11 hereby recognizes, honors, and thanks Colonel Thomas F. Lee on the occasion of his retirement  
12 after six years of steadfast service to the people of Portsmouth. We wish him good health,  
13 fulfillment and continued success in all his future endeavors; and be it further

14          RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to  
15 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Colonel Thomas Lee, Chief of the Portsmouth  
16 Police Department.

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