

2020 -- S 2879

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2020

SENATE RESOLUTION

COMMEMORATING "MEDAL OF HONOR DAY" IN RHODE ISLAND ON MARCH 25,
2020

Introduced By: Senators Morgan, Paolino, Rogers, de la Cruz, and Algieri

Date Introduced: June 17, 2020

Referred To: Placed on the Senate Consent Calendar

1 WHEREAS, The Medal of Honor is the highest and most prestigious military decoration
2 that is awarded to United States military service members through their acts of valor. It is
3 awarded for "conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of
4 duty;" and

5 WHEREAS, The Medal of Honor was first established by the United States Navy in
6 1861, followed by the United States Army in 1862. The United States Air Force, founded as an
7 independent service in 1947, established its Medal of Honor in 1965. Each branch has a slightly
8 different design to its Medal of Honor; and

9 WHEREAS, "Medal of Honor Day" is a United States federal holiday that was
10 established to honor the heroism and sacrifice of Medal of Honor recipients. Medal of Honor Day
11 was created when President George H. W. Bush signed into law Public Law 101-564 on
12 November 15, 1990; and

13 WHEREAS, Rhode Island has had the distinction of having thirty-five of its citizens
14 receive the Medal of Honor. These heroic men were Lieutenant William B. Avery, (Navy),
15 Sergeant William J. Babcock, (Army), Corporal James A. Barber, (Army), Captain George M.
16 Bliss, (Army), Colonel Zenas R. Bliss, (Army), Lieutenant John K. Bucklyn, (Army), Sergeant
17 James H. Burbank, (Army), Corporal Benjamin H. Child, (Army), Private John Corcoran,
18 (Army), Captain of the Top John Edwards, (Navy), Private Charles D. Ennis, (Army), Sergeant
19 John H. Havron, (Army), Coxswain Thomas Hayes, (Navy), Corporal Samuel E. Lewis, (Army),

1 George E. McDonald, (Army), Sergeant Archibald Molbone, (Army), Corporal Thomas Parker,
2 (Army), Private George W. Potter, (Army), Seaman George E. Read, (Navy), Private Joseph
3 Taylor, (Army), Lieutenant Edward P. Tobie, (Army), Private James Welsh, (Army), Sergeant
4 John S. Lawton, (Army), Private Owen McGar, (Army), Gunner's Mate 3rd Class Petty Officer,
5 John Davis, (Navy), Boatswain's Mate Matthew Gillick, (Navy), Seaman Philip Moore, (Navy),
6 Machinist's Mate Chief Petty Officer Michael Walsh, (Navy), Gunner's Mate Chief Petty
7 Officer, George Bradley, (Navy), Machinist's Mate Chief Petty Officer, Francis Edward
8 Ormsbee, Jr., (Navy), Gunner's Mate Chief Petty Officer Thomas Eadie, (Navy), Sergeant
9 William G. Fournier, (Army), Private George J. Peters, (Army), Lieutenant Robert T. Waugh,
10 (Army), and Corporal David B. Champagne, (Marine Corps); now, therefore be it

11 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
12 hereby commemorates "Medal of Honor Day" in Rhode Island on March 25, 2020; and be it
13 further

14 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
15 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Honorable Governor of Rhode Island, Gina
16 M. Raimondo, and Mr. Kasim Yarn, Director, Rhode Island Office of Veterans Affairs.

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