

2020 -- S 2943

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2020

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SENATE RESOLUTION

THANKING THE HONORABLE SENATOR HAROLD M. METTS FOR THIRTY YEARS OF  
DISTINGUISHED SERVICE IN THE RHODE ISLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY AS A  
MEMBER OF BOTH THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Introduced By: Senators Ruggerio, McCaffrey, Goodwin, Gallo, and Conley

Date Introduced: December 18, 2020

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1           WHEREAS, Harold M. Metts was born in 1947. He is the husband of Dayus L. Metts  
2 and together they were blessed with three children, Harold, Jr., Darren and Ja'de, as well as six  
3 grandchildren. He graduated from Central High School, earned his Bachelor's degree in Business  
4 Administration from Roger Williams University in 1970, his Social Business Teacher  
5 Certification from Bryant College in 1975, and a Masters of Education-Secondary Administration  
6 from Rhode Island College in 1983; and

7           WHEREAS, Senator Metts is a retired former Assistant Principal for the Providence  
8 School Department where he was widely admired for his tireless work ethic and his abiding  
9 passion for making a positive difference in the lives of disadvantaged and at-risk youth; and

10           WHEREAS, A man of deep faith and conviction, Senator Metts has devoted his life  
11 towards making a difference in his community. He is a member of the Providence Branch of the  
12 NAACP and the Urban League, serves on the Deacon Board for the Congdon Street Baptist  
13 Church, and volunteers his time in prison ministry. In addition, Senator Metts served our nation  
14 with honor and distinction as a member of the Rhode Island Army National Guard from 1970 to  
15 1976; and

16           WHEREAS, For thirty years Senator Metts has represented his Providence constituents in  
17 the Rhode Island General Assembly, first serving in the House of Representatives from 1985 to  
18 1998, and as a member of the Rhode Island Senate since 2005. He currently serves as the Vice  
19 Chair of the Senate Committee on Education and the Secretary of the Senate Committee on

1 Judiciary; and

2 WHEREAS, Senator Mett's expertise on issues related to urban affairs, education and  
3 equal justice have always been held in high regard by his fellow Senate colleagues. His efforts on  
4 behalf of working families, the incarcerated, and all underprivileged and unrepresented  
5 communities have included increasing access and funding for affordable housing, raising the  
6 minimum wage multiple times, increasing funding for job training and for Providence's schools,  
7 restoring funding for RIPTA's free and reduced bus fare program for the elderly and handicapped,  
8 and championing the Madeline Walker Act to prohibit wrongful evictions; and

9 WHEREAS, Working to break down the barriers for minority communities and end  
10 systemic racism, Senator Metts championed the Police Relationship Act of 2015 that forced state  
11 and local law enforcement agencies to report and take action on racial disparities in traffic stops  
12 and other documented searches, and Ban the Box legislation that prohibits employers from  
13 summarily dismissing job applicants because of their record. He also worked for expungement  
14 reform, legislation to overhaul the state's occupational licensing statutes to ensure those with  
15 criminal records have a second chance because in his words, "No one was ever sentenced to a life  
16 in the unemployment line," and sponsored legislation to eliminate "Providence Plantations" from  
17 the state's name; and

18 WHEREAS, Senator Metts is a well-respected elder statesman of the Senate who is  
19 deeply admired for his decorum and collegial manners and his presence in the Senate will be  
20 deeply missed by his colleagues and the citizens of Rhode Island; now, therefore be it

21 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island hereby thanks Senator Harold  
22 Metts for his thirty years of exemplary and meritorious service in the Rhode Island General  
23 Assembly, and wishes him continued good health, happiness, and success in all his future  
24 endeavors; and be it further

25 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
26 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the Honorable Senator Harold M. Metts.

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