WHEREAS, The Honorable Bruce Sundlun was born on January 19, 1920. He attended
Williams College, earning a B.A. degree in 1942, and attained his law degree from Harvard in
1949; and

WHEREAS, In World War II, The Honorable Bruce Sundlun led with distinction as a pilot with the 8th Air Force in England, where his airplane was shot down over Nazi-occupied Belgium in 1943. As a person of Jewish faith and speaking very little French, he was able to hide in plain sight, fight along with the French underground under the code name “Salamander”, and enter Switzerland in May 1944. He was later awarded the Purple Heart, the Distinguished Flying Cross, and the Air Medal with oak leaf cluster from the United States, and Chevalier of the Légion d’honneur from the Republic of France; and

WHEREAS, The Honorable Bruce Sundlun practiced law, serving from 1949 to 1951 as an assistant United States Attorney, and from 1954 to 1972, as special assistant to the U.S. Attorney General; and

WHEREAS, The Honorable Bruce Sundlun excelled in business leadership as President of the Outlet Company during its time of diversification and expansion into television broadcasting, and as President of the Executive Jet Corporation, he led the company into a leadership position in the field of worldwide air charter service; and

WHEREAS, Immediately upon his swearing in as Governor of Rhode Island in 1991, The Honorable Bruce Sundlun was called upon to provide leadership in restoring confidence in
Rhode Island’s credit union and banking industry. Through his skilled leadership all depositors were repaid their funds frozen during the crisis; and

WHEREAS, Through the visionary leadership of The Honorable Governor Bruce Sundlun, the Rhode Island Airport Corporation was formed to lead the renovations and expansion of T.F. Green Airport. The upgrades provided Rhode Island with extended air service, as well as considerable economic growth brought by the greater numbers of visitors and business travelers to the state; and

WHEREAS, In “retirement” The Honorable Bruce Sundlun continues to be active as Governor in Residence annually teaching two courses at the University of Rhode Island; and

WHEREAS, The Honorable Bruce Sundlun also continues to provide ideas for improving Rhode Island’s economy and state budget difficulties by lecturing, writing and promoting such ideas as lengthening T.F. Green runways within the current boundaries of the airport to allow non-stop air travel to the Pacific coast, and by proposing the savings of millions of taxpayer dollars by reducing the number of state school districts into one single state public school management system; now; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations hereby honors Governor Bruce Sundlun on the occasion of his 88th birthday. We thank him for his continued ideas and leadership, and extend our sincere wishes for his continued success, health, and happiness; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to The Honorable Bruce Sundlun.