

2008 -- H 7186

LC00926

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2008

HOUSE RESOLUTION

HONORING FORMER GOVERNOR BRUCE SUNDLUN
FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND ON THE
OCCASION OF HIS 88TH BIRTHDAY

Introduced By: Representatives Naughton, Murphy, Fox, E Coderre, and Kilmartin

Date Introduced: January 22, 2008

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, The Honorable Bruce Sundlun was born on January 19, 1920. He attended
2 Williams College, earning a B.A. degree in 1942, and attained his law degree from Harvard in
3 1949; and

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

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

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

18 WHEREAS, Immediately upon his swearing in as Governor of Rhode Island in 1991,
19 The Honorable Bruce Sundlun was called upon to provide leadership in restoring confidence in

1 Rhode Island's credit union and banking industry. Through his skilled leadership all depositors
2 were repaid their funds frozen during the crisis; and

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

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

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

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

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

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