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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2009

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SENATE RESOLUTION

COMMENDING THE HONORABLE BRUCE SUNDLUN FOR HIS DISTINGUISHED  
MILITARY SERVICE

Introduced By: Senators Paiva-Weed, C Levesque, Gallo, P Fogarty, and DiPalma

Date Introduced: April 30, 2009

Referred To: Senate read and passed

1           WHEREAS, Throughout American history, our nation has been propitiously blessed with  
2 so many of her citizenry willing to serve this country and protect our precious freedoms and  
3 liberties; and

4           WHEREAS, This tremendous sacrifice was once again brought to our forethoughts with  
5 a recent ceremony honoring Bruce Sundlun and other crew members of the B-17 Flying Fortress  
6 Damn Yankees for their heroic service during World War II; and

7           WHEREAS, Mr. Sundlun's courage was tested, but never failed him throughout a  
8 military career which was marked by extraordinary leadership and heroism. In 1943, while  
9 serving as a pilot with the 8th Air Force, his airplane was shot down when returning from a  
10 bombing mission in Solingen, Germany, while over Nazi-occupied Belgium; and

11           WHEREAS, Five members of Sundlun's crew lost their lives, but Sundlun was able to  
12 parachute to safety, landing in a field at Snellegem, Belgium. Thereafter, fighting along side the  
13 French underground, using the code name "Salamander", Sundlun was able to make his way to  
14 Switzerland in May of 1944; and

15           WHEREAS, For his distinguished service in the military, Mr. Sundlun was recently  
16 honored in a ceremony held in Jabbeke, Belgium, where a monument to his crew was erected. He  
17 was also made an honorary citizen of the city; and

18           WHEREAS, In addition, The Honorable Bruce Sundlun received a plethora of awards  
19 and commendations for his distinguished military service including, the Purple Heart, the

1 Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal with oak leaf cluster from the United States, and  
2 Chevalier of the Légion d'honneur from the Republic of France; and

3 WHEREAS, Upon returning to Rhode Island in the mid 40s, The Honorable Bruce  
4 Sundlun established himself as an attorney, and launched a career in public service that  
5 culminated in his inauguration as Governor of the State of Rhode Island in 1991; and

6 WHEREAS, Mr. Sundlun's valor and personal sacrifices have enriched the lives of all  
7 Americans and it is fundamental that he, as well as all the men and women who wear the uniform  
8 of the armed services, know that they are appreciated and never far from our thoughts and  
9 prayers; now, therefore be it

10 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island Providence Plantations  
11 hereby recognizes and applauds the great courage and commitment The Honorable Bruce  
12 Sundlun demonstrated during his career in the United States Air Force and wish him and his  
13 entire family the very best health and happiness; 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 The Honorable Bruce Sundlun.

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