

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017

SENATE RESOLUTION

HONORING BETTY JEAN MCCOLLAM LEMIEUX ON THE OCCASION OF HER 80TH BIRTHDAY

Introduced By: Senators Goodwin, Crowley, Metts, Lombardi, and Archambault

Date Introduced: March 02, 2017

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, Betty Jean McCollam was born into the humble home of Willis Lee
2 McCollam and Geraldine Lee Scheitlin on March 6, 1937, in Elkins, West Virginia. Roosevelt
3 was President of the United States that year, the cost of gasoline was 20¢ per gallon and bread
4 was only 9¢ a loaf; and

5 WHEREAS, Betty Jean McCollam was one of 12 children, most of whom were born at
6 home. When the siblings were told to sit on the porch for a while, they would all know that when
7 they were able to come back inside, a new brother or sister would be waiting for them; and

8 WHEREAS, The large and loving family spent many joyous hours with their father,
9 Willis, who would sit and play the guitar after he returned home from a long day at work. Betty,
10 would oftentimes stand beside him and sing along with her beautiful clear voice. Their father
11 was also quite a romantic, who would make special cards for his wife, Geraldine, expressing his
12 love for her and their children; and

13 WHEREAS, In 1955, Betty Jean graduated from Elkins High School, and shortly
14 thereafter, left the mountains of Elkins to find work in Washington, DC. She took employment as
15 a waitress in a famous pancake house in Washington called "1001 Ways to Make Pancakes." Life
16 in Washington was never dull, and Betty would often see the Secret Service close the streets in
17 front of the restaurant so that the President could make his way to the church across the street;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, Although she didn't have much time for socializing, Betty became friends

1 with Terry and Doug, who were originally from Rhode Island. The two were planning to return
2 to Rhode Island and asked Betty to join them. In 1959, she made the decision to leave
3 Washington and moved to Rhode Island; and

4 WHEREAS, In those days, for a young woman to be so far away from her family, was a
5 very brave decision. Betty's greatest fear was where she would live, but fortunately, she was able
6 to find an apartment in the same building as her friends, in the City of Central Falls; and

7 WHEREAS, Betty once again turned to waitressing and found her first job in her new
8 city at the famous Stanley's Hamburgers restaurant. She soon met many people from the area,
9 one of whom turned out to be her future husband, Donald Lemieux, Sr., and although it took him
10 numerous tries to convince Betty to go on a date with him, he eventually persevered and the
11 couple ultimately married and made their home in Central Falls; and

12 WHEREAS, Betty and Donald are the parents of Dana and Donald, Jr., the very proud
13 grandparents of Joseph and Emma, and the great-grandparents of Peri, Zachary, Elizabeth,
14 Joshua, Danielle, Devin and Erick. Betty is now semi-retired and enjoys spending much of her
15 time volunteering at her church and singing in the church choir. She is also a Senior Companion
16 for the Blackstone Valley Community Action Program; and

17 WHEREAS, Betty Jean McCollam Lemieux is a beloved gentlewoman who has impacted
18 the lives of so many people over the course of the past eight decades, and her joyous spirit and
19 exuberance for life has delighted all who have been lucky enough to be a part of her extraordinary
20 life; now, therefore be it

21 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
22 hereby joins the family and many friends of Betty Jean McCollam Lemieux in honoring her on
23 the very special occasion of her 80th Birthday. We wish her and all the members of her family the
24 very best health and happiness; 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 Betty Jean McCollam Lemieux.

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