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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019

SENATE RESOLUTION

HONORING RABBI WAYNE FRANKLIN ON HIS RETIREMENT AFTER THIRTY-EIGHT
YEARS OF FAITHFUL AND DEVOTED SERVICE TO THE TEMPLE EMANU-EL
CONGREGATION AND THE WIDER COMMUNITY

Introduced By: Senator Gayle L. Goldin

Date Introduced: June 13, 2019

Referred To: Placed on the Senate Consent Calendar

1 WHEREAS, Rabbi Wayne Franklin, Senior Rabbi at Temple Emanu-El since 1981, is a
2 native of Wharton, Texas. He graduated from Yeshiva University in 1965, and was ordained at
3 the Jewish Theological Seminary of America in 1970, where he was awarded an Honorary
4 Doctorate of Divinity in 1996; and

5 WHEREAS, For the past thirty-eight years, Rabbi Franklin has been the spiritual leader
6 of Temple Emanu-El and has performed his myriad pastoral duties, from comforting the sick and
7 marrying couples to teaching the Jewish faith to children, converts, and people of all ages and
8 walks of life, with grace, wit, and abiding integrity; and

9 WHEREAS, Perhaps the most enduring legacy of Rabbi Franklin's tenure has been his
10 passion and tireless support of the concepts of inclusivity and understanding. Rabbi Franklin
11 knows all too well what outcomes can result from narrow-mindedness, hatred, and the shunning
12 or exclusion of those that look and/or think differently than others; and

13 WHEREAS, Rabbi Franklin has long been a leader in the interfaith community, both
14 locally and with the National Council of Synagogues. Thanks to his leadership and guidance,
15 Temple Emanu-El purchased a section of Swan Point Cemetery where interfaith members of the
16 congregation can be buried together, and the Board of Directors changed its rules to allow
17 members married to non-Jewish people to serve on the Board. Rabbi Franklin has been invited
18 numerous times to speak to theology classes at Providence College, and has stated that he
19 believes "one of the missions of Judaism, a central mission, is to try to make peace in the

1 world.....and you don't do it by talking to yourself. You do it with other people"; and

2 WHEREAS, Rabbi Franklin has served on numerous boards and committees throughout
3 his distinguished career including serving as Chair of the Community Relations Council of the
4 Jewish Federation of Rhode Island, Chair of the Rhode Island Interfaith Commemoration of the
5 Holocaust for thirty-four years, as a member of Miriam Hospital's Ethics Committee and its
6 Jewish Traditions Advisory Committee. He also serves as the Secretary/Treasurer of the National
7 Council of Synagogues, and is a member of numerous interfaith groups including the Rhode
8 Island Rabbis and Priests Dialogue and the Abrahamic Accord, co-chairs the Rhode Island
9 Catholic-Jewish Dialogue Group, and was a member of the Providence Faith Community, and
10 Law Enforcement Leaders Dialogue Group; and

11 WHEREAS, Rabbi Franklin has received numerous awards and honors in recognition of
12 his exemplary leadership within the Jewish and Interfaith communities. He was the first recipient
13 of the Jewish Federation's Tilles Award and the Jewish Federation's Never Again Award in
14 2003. In 2004, he received the National Conference for Community and Justice (NCCJ) Interfaith
15 Leadership Award, and in 2018, received the Joseph W. Ress Community Service Award,
16 presented by the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island. Rabbi Franklin was also awarded an
17 Honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from Providence College in 2017; now, therefore be it

18 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
19 hereby honors the esteemed Rabbi Wayne Franklin on his retirement as Senior Rabbi of Temple
20 Emanu-El after thirty-eight years of faithful and devoted service to the congregation and the
21 wider community. May we all always live by his eloquent statement, "We're all children of
22 Adam and Eve. We are all fundamentally brothers and sisters. Nobody's better than anybody else,
23 no matter the religion, no matter the nationality, no matter the color of your skin"; and be it
24 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 Rabbi Wayne Franklin, Senior Rabbi, Temple
27 Emanu-El.

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