

2020 -- H 7241

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2020

HOUSE RESOLUTION

CONGRATULATING REVEREND BRIAN J. SHANLEY, O.P., S.T.L., PH.D., ON HIS
RETIREMENT AFTER FIFTEEN YEARS OF EXTRAORDINARY LEADERSHIP AND
SUCCESS AS THE PRESIDENT OF PROVIDENCE COLLEGE

Introduced By: Representatives Shanley, Mattiello, Kennedy, Amore, and Corvese

Date Introduced: January 22, 2020

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, The Reverend Brian J. Shanley, a native of Warwick, graduated from
2 Providence College in 1980, with a degree in history. He earned a Licentiate degree in philosophy
3 from The Catholic University of America, and a master of divinity and licentiate degree in sacred
4 theology from the Dominican House of Studies in Washington, D.C. He also attained a doctorate
5 in philosophy from the University of Toronto and completed a post-doctoral fellowship at the
6 University of Notre Dame's Center for Philosophy of Religion; and

7 WHEREAS, Father Shanley was ordained a member of the Dominican Order of
8 Preachers in 1987. He taught Philosophy at Providence College, and was a visiting professor at
9 Emory University's Candler School of Theology. He also served as an Associate Professor of
10 Philosophy at the Catholic University of America; and

11 WHEREAS, Father Shanley became the President of Providence College in 2005 and is
12 the longest serving President in Providence College history. His tenure has been marked by
13 immense success academically and in athletics. Thanks to his leadership and guidance, the
14 College has undergone significant campus improvements of more than \$100 million and
15 applications from prospective students are at record levels. Under his watch, Providence College
16 has consistently been ranked among the top Regional Universities by U.S. News & World
17 Reports and in 2020 was ranked number one; and

18 WHEREAS, Athletics at Providence College have excelled under the Presidency of
19 Father Shanley. During his tenure, the Friars have won two national titles, successfully guided the

1 creation of the new Big East Conference with other like-minded Colleges and Universities, and
2 made significant capital improvements to the athletic facilities for the benefit of all students; and

3 WHEREAS, A 2015 GoLocalProv review of all NCAA Division I sports teams found
4 that, per capita, Providence College had the most successful athletic program in the United States
5 for the 2014-2015 NCAA season; and

6 WHEREAS, Father Shanley also served as a member of the Corporation of Providence
7 College and the Board of Trustees, and had previously served as the Chair of the Board's
8 Strategic Planning Committee. In addition, he served on the Executive Committee of the
9 American Catholic Philosophical Association, as a former Regent of Studies for the Dominican
10 Province of St. Joseph, and was a member of the twelve-member body of Dominican Friars, who
11 serve as cabinet-level advisors to the Prior Provincial. Father Shanley, in particular, advised the
12 Prior Provincial on all aspects related to the academic and intellectual life of the province; and

13 WHEREAS, Father Shanley is a widely published and admired author who has served as
14 an Associate Editor of the Thomist and as a member of the editorial board for the International
15 Journal for the Philosophy of Religion. He has been published in academic journals with a
16 particular focus and research interests in philosophy, religion, metaphysics, medieval philosophy,
17 and ethics; now, therefore be it

18 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
19 Providence Plantations hereby congratulates Reverend Brian J. Shanley on his retirement after
20 fifteen years of exemplary and distinguished service to Providence College, the City of
21 Providence and the State of Rhode Island. We furthermore wish him good health, happiness, and
22 continued success in all his future endeavors; and be it further

23 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
24 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the Reverend Brian J. Shanley, O.P., S.T.L.,
25 Ph.D., President of Providence College.

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