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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2012

H O U S E R E S O L U T I O N

**COMMEMORATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF FENWAY PARK, HOME OF THE
BOSTON RED SOX**

Introduced By: Representatives Kennedy, Fox, Mattiello, E Coderre, and Baldelli-Hunt

Date Introduced: March 28, 2012

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, Historic Fenway Park, home of the Boston Red Sox and beloved by Red
2 Sox fans and baseball lovers throughout the world for its quaint intimacy, its world famous Green
3 Monster, and for the seamless fit between its architecture and the surrounding urban landscape, is
4 celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2012. This celebration will be observed by the Boston Red
5 Sox, their millions of fans, and by traditional baseball and architecture lovers across the country
6 and globe; and

7 WHEREAS, Fenway Park opened in 1912 and is the oldest Major League Baseball Park
8 still in use. Built for the then-princely sum of \$650,000, its asymmetrical design stemmed from
9 the need to position the park against the contours of the bustling and dense “Fenway-Kenmore”
10 neighborhood of Boston. Its architecture resulted in a small capacity for a major league baseball
11 park and its many endearing features, such as the short Pesky Pole down the right field line and
12 the “Triangle” in deep Center Field. Fenway Park’s lack of much foul territory brings the
13 spectators very close to the action and helps give it its reputation as a “hitters park,” because most
14 foul balls hit by a batter land in the stands, out of the grasp of the fielders, thus affording hitters
15 extra swings at the plate; and

16 WHEREAS, Fenway Park’s most prominent, famous, and beloved feature is the Green
17 Monster in the left field. Only approximately 310 to 315 feet down the line, and alleged to be
18 even shorter by rival teams, this feature is instantly recognizable to baseball fans anywhere in the
19 world when watching a game from Fenway Park on television. A common experience for just

1 about every youngster on his or her first trip to Fenway Park is to gasp in amazement at the
2 wonder of the Green Monster when climbing the stairs and seeing the park in person; and

3 WHEREAS, Perhaps the most famous moment in the rich history of Fenway Park and
4 Major League Baseball was Carlton Fisk's historic home run to win game six of the 1975 World
5 Series, which kept the Red Sox alive and forced a game 7 against the Cincinnati Reds. In the 12th
6 inning of game six, arguably the greatest game in baseball history, with the score tied, Carlton
7 Fisk hit a long fly ball down the left field line and toward the Green Monster. In dramatic fashion,
8 he hopped down the base line willing the ball fair with his arms, hands, hips, and every other part
9 of his body. To the rapturous joy of every Red Sox fan in the world, the ball hit the foul pole, now
10 called the "Fisk Foul Pole," was ruled fair, and the Red Sox won the game. This event was
11 witnessed by countless millions on national television and the image of Fisk directing the ball fair
12 against the background of the Green Monster is one of the most famous moments and enduring
13 images in American sports history; and

14 WHEREAS, Fenway Park is the one of the last two original Major League Baseball parks
15 in existence, along with Wrigley Field, that has had so many of the early baseball greats play on
16 its field. Babe Ruth, Ty Cobb, Walter Johnson, Jimmie Foxx, Lefty Grove, Mickey Cochrane,
17 Lou Gehrig, Joe DiMaggio, Bob Feller, Al Kaline, Mickey Mantle, Yogi Berra, and countless
18 other stars have played baseball on this historic ground. It's the place where the greatest hitter in
19 baseball history, Ted Williams, became the last player to compile a batting average over .400, in
20 1941. It's the place that has a lone red seat in the right field bleachers to commemorate a 520-foot
21 blast Ted Williams hit on June 9, 1946. It's the place where Ted Williams, in his last at bat ever,
22 in dramatic fashion, hit a home run; and

23 WHEREAS, Fenway Park is also home of the "Impossible Dream," the famous 1967
24 season when the Red Sox, after a decade of horrible baseball and almost total futility, shocked the
25 baseball world and won the American League Pennant. Led by Hall of Famer Carl Yastrzemski
26 and his Triple Crown season, Jim Lonborg, winner of the Cy Young Award, and other beloved
27 Red Sox players like Rico Petrocelli, George Scott, and Tony Conigliaro, the Red Sox won
28 arguably the greatest and most thrilling pennant race in baseball history. Fittingly, the Red Sox
29 won the pennant on the last day of the regular season at home against the pennant contending
30 Minnesota Twins, aided by the strong pitching of Jim Lonborg, and the clutch hitting of 1967
31 American League Most Valuable Player, Carl Yastrzemski; and

32 WHEREAS, After eighty-six years of heartbreak and not winning a world championship,
33 the Red Sox in 2004 finally exorcised the "Curse of the Bambino" and won their first World
34 Series since 1918. The Red Sox had to defeat their hated historic rival, the New York Yankees,

1 on their way to World Series victory. The Red Sox became the first team in baseball history to
2 come back from a 3-0 deficit in a best of seven series and win the series. In game 4 at Fenway,
3 the Red Sox were facing elimination, down 4-3 in the ninth inning, when they dramatically forced
4 the game into extra innings and won the game in the 12th inning when David Ortiz hit a two-run
5 homer. Game five incredibly went 14 innings and was won once again by the clutch David Ortiz
6 with a single. In game six at Yankee Stadium the Red Sox and their depleted pitching staff had to
7 turn to the injured Curt Schilling to force a game seven. Pitching in pain with a bleeding right
8 ankle throughout the game, Schilling turned in one of the gutsiest pitching performances in
9 baseball history, holding the explosive Yankee offense to one run over seven innings, and getting
10 the Red Sox to game 7. In game 7 the Red Sox completed their historic comeback led by Derek
11 Lowe's strong pitching and Johnny Damon's two home runs, including a Grand slam, to win 10-3
12 and earn the right to play the St. Louis Cardinals in the World Series. The 2004 World Series was
13 far less dramatic as the Red Sox swept the Cardinals and won their first world championship
14 since 1918; and

15 WHEREAS, The Red Sox thankfully did not wait another eighty-six years to win another
16 World Series. This time it took only three years. The 2007 Red Sox went 96-66 in the regular
17 season, tying the Cleveland Indians for the best record in baseball and edging out the New York
18 Yankees for the divisional title by two games. The Red Sox swept the Angels 3-0 in the first
19 round of the playoffs, and then in the second round against the Cleveland Indians, once again
20 came back from behind, and won the American League Championship series. Down three games
21 to one to the Indians and facing elimination in Cleveland in game 5, the Red Sox fought off
22 elimination led by a masterful pitching performance by Josh Beckett. The Red Sox would win the
23 last 3 games of the American League Championship Series by a combined score of 30-5 and win
24 the series 4 games to 3. Once again, the Championship series proved to be the more dramatic set
25 of games, as the Red Sox went on to sweep the Colorado Rockies and win the 2007 World Series
26 title; and

27 WHEREAS, Fenway Park is a magical place where the improbable and impossible
28 frequently occur. It holds a special place in the hearts of all Red Sox fans and is a distinguished
29 part of baseball lore. May Fenway Park have another 100 years as the home of the Boston Red
30 Sox and as a special place where baseball is played the way it was meant to be played; now,
31 therefore be it

32 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
33 Providence Plantations hereby commemorates the 100th anniversary of Fenway Park, home of our
34 beloved Boston Red Sox; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to
2 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to Boston Red Sox owners John Henry, Tom
3 Werner, and Larry Lucchino.

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