

2012 -- S 2174

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2012

SENATE RESOLUTION

CONGRATULATING CHIEF VINCENT VESPIA ON BEING INDUCTED INTO THE
CRIMINAL JUSTICE HALL OF FAME

Introduced By: Senators Sosnowski, McCaffrey, Felag, Algieri, and Bates

Date Introduced: January 19, 2012

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, The Criminal Justice Hall of Fame was created by Attorney General Peter
2 Kilmartin to recognize people who have made significant contributions to the state's criminal
3 justice system. The inaugural class to be inducted in 2012 was selected by the newly formed
4 Criminal Justice Hall of Fame Board of Trustees; and

5 WHEREAS, Nominated by State Police Col. Steven O'Donnell, Chief Vincent Vespia,
6 South Kingstown's Chief of Police, was chosen by a unanimous vote to be one of this year's
7 inductees; and

8 WHEREAS, With fifty-one years of varied law enforcement experience and wisdom
9 under his belt, Chief Vespia is described as a legend in the business, a role model for young
10 police officers, and a person who sets the standards for others to emulate; and

11 WHEREAS, Chief Vespia's career in law enforcement began after his service in the
12 United States Army during the Korean Conflict. Upon discharge, he returned to Rhode Island
13 and entered the State Police Academy. He served as a state trooper for the next twenty-one years
14 until South Kingstown had the good fortune of acquiring him as its Chief of Police; and

15 WHEREAS, Over the past five decades, Chief Vespia has spearheaded numerous
16 technological transformations in the law enforcement field and his own department. When his
17 career began in the early 1960s, police work was vastly different than what it is today. There
18 were no computers in squad cars or cell phones to keep in contact. Helmets were yet to be used
19 and even radios were not available; and

1 WHEREAS, During Chief Vespia’s tenure, the South Kingstown Police Department has
2 become a state-of-the-art facility, and with a dramatic growth in the town’s population, the force
3 has expanded from thirty-three officers to fifty-two; and

4 WHEREAS, For the past thirty years, Chief Vespia has served and protected the citizens
5 of South Kingstown. Although he is admittedly a “street cop and investigator” at heart, Chief
6 Vespia is also a consummate professional and all-around good person, which has made him a
7 natural and effective leader and eminently deserving of the honor and distinction of being
8 inducted into the Criminal Justice Hall of Fame; now, therefore be it

9 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
10 hereby applauds and congratulates Chief Vincent Vespia on being a 2012 inductee into the Rhode
11 Island Criminal Justice Hall of Fame. We furthermore thank him for more than fifty years of
12 dedicated service to the people of South Kingstown and the State of Rhode Island; and be it
13 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 South Kingstown Police Chief Vincent Vespia.

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