

2013 -- H 6243

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2013

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

**CONGRATULATING JEFFREY MARK PADWA FOR COMPLETING THE 54-MILE
COMRADES ULTRAMARATHON IN SOUTH AFRICA**

Introduced By: Representatives Blazejewski, Shekarchi, Ajello, Fox, and Slater

Date Introduced: June 18, 2013

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, The Comrades Marathon in South Africa was run on Sunday, June 2nd,
2 2013, for the 88th time. The concept of the marathon began as a "vision" of World War I veteran
3 Vic Clapham, who wanted to establish a lasting monument that would pay homage to the
4 hardship, pain, and suffering endured by those who had fallen during the war; and

5 WHEREAS, Since the very first race in 1921, Comrades has been staged every year, with
6 the exception of a period of time during the Second World War, and has become one of the
7 longest-running and best-loved ultramarathons in the world; and

8 WHEREAS, The Comrade's hilly course alternates direction between "up" run and
9 "down" run years and consists of approximately 6,600 feet of ascent and 4,700 feet of descent
10 with five major hills: Polly Shortts, Inchanga, Botha's Hill, Fields Hill, Cowie's Hill, and not
11 much flat land between them. This year marked an "up" run with the race starting on the coast in
12 Durban, South Africa, and finishing higher up inland at Pietermaritzburg, for a total of just over a
13 double marathon of 87.3k (54.3 miles); and

14 WHEREAS, Competing with more than 19,000 athletes from all over the world, Jeffrey
15 Padwa, a 49-year-old City Solicitor for Providence, took on this ultimate training and endurance
16 challenge and ran Comrades. He completed the Comrades race in 10 hours, 14 minutes, 59
17 seconds, finishing in 3,688th place out of a field of 19,907 entrants; and

18 WHEREAS, Mr. Padwa, who ran to support the children and families who need and use
19 the Ronald McDonald House of Providence, received a Bronze medal for his effort. In addition,

1 through donations and sponsors, he was able to raise almost \$25,000 to help care for families who
2 are struggling when their children are sick; and

3 WHEREAS, What has made Comrades one of world's best-loved and most revered races
4 is the tradition and unique spirit brought by the thousands of runners who have completed the
5 race throughout its illustrious history; and

6 WHEREAS, Jeffrey Padwa set a goal for himself that required enormous effort and he
7 was fully committed to the discipline, hard work, and persistence that were necessary to make it
8 happen. With the strength of his spirit, mind, and body, he rose gloriously to the challenge, and
9 earned the honor of completing this uplifting and life-affirming experience; now, therefore be it

10 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
11 Providence Plantations hereby applauds and congratulates Jeffrey Padwa on completing the
12 Comrades Ultramarathon. We moreover wish him good health, happiness, and much success in
13 all his future endeavors; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
15 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Mr. Jeffrey Mark Padwa.

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