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LC003769

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**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2014**

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**S E N A T E R E S O L U T I O N**

**APPLAUDING THE HEROIC ACTIONS OF EDWARD CATONI AND RONALD JENNINGS**

Introduced By: Senators Lombardi, Ruggerio, Goodwin, Pichardo, and Metts

Date Introduced: January 30, 2014

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1        WHEREAS, Many people go through their lives without any personal contact with a  
2 potential life and death situation, without that defining moment that turns an ordinary person into  
3 a hero. Edward Catoni and Ronald Jennings faced such a challenge, and in that moment of crisis,  
4 without hesitation, they did the extraordinary and saved the life of Geoffrey Radcliffe; and

5        WHEREAS, Being homeless, tired, and robbed multiple times, had left Geoffrey  
6 Radcliffe with crushing hopelessness. And as his mother tried desperately to catch up with him,  
7 while simultaneously dialing 911 for help, Geoffrey swung himself over the barrier in  
8 Providence's Waterplace Park and dropped towards the waterway; and

9        WHEREAS, Within yards of the potential tragedy, two park rangers, working under the  
10 Providence Police, heard the call come in from dispatch. A moment later, Geoffrey's mother,  
11 Nancy, spotted the two rangers and told them her son's name; and

12       WHEREAS, Mr. Catoni and Mr. Jennings pursued Geoffrey, catching him just as he was  
13 about to crash through the ice. Wrapping their arms around his arms, the rangers managed to hold  
14 onto the 250-pound man as his feet submerged into the freezing water; and

15       WHEREAS, Reinforcements from the Providence police force arrived on the scene and  
16 helped to lift and guide the young man to an ambulance; and

17       WHEREAS, Through the amazingly heroic efforts of Edward Catoni and Ronald  
18 Jennings, Geoffrey Radcliffe now has a future that will perhaps be brighter as time goes on; now,  
19 therefore be it

20       RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

1 hereby recognizes and honors Park Rangers Edward Catoni and Ronald Jennings for their heroic  
2 and clear-headed actions during the most dire of circumstances. These two men are truly an  
3 inspiration to us all and we extend best wishes for their future happiness, success, and good  
4 health; and be it further

5           RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
6 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to Mr. Edward Catoni and Mr. Ronald Jennings.

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