

**2015 -- H 5528**

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**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2015**

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

**EXPRESSING DEEPEST SYMPATHY ON THE PASSING OF CENTRAL COVENTRY FIRE  
CHIEF ANDREW J. BAYNES (RET.)**

Introduced By: Representatives Casey, Morin, Nunes, Jacquard, and Nardolillo

Date Introduced: February 24, 2015

Referred To: House read and passed

1           WHEREAS, It is with utmost sadness that this House has learned of the passing of  
2 Andrew J. Baynes, the beloved husband of Ann Baynes, his wife of forty years, the devoted  
3 father of Bryan Baynes, and the widely admired retired Fire Chief of the Central Coventry Fire  
4 District and the Town of Johnston Fire Department, and the retired Battalion Chief of the  
5 Warwick Fire Department; and

6           WHEREAS, Andrew Baynes was born in the City of Providence, a son of the late John  
7 and Barbara Baynes. He was the brother of John Baynes, Deborah Baker, and Dr. Diane Baynes;  
8 and

9           WHEREAS, Upon graduation from Cranston High School, Mr. Baynes earned an  
10 Associate's degree in Fire Science and an Associate's degree in Nursing from the Community  
11 College of Rhode Island, and a Bachelor's degree in Fire Safety Engineering from Providence  
12 College. He had continued his education, working towards a Master's degree in Public  
13 Administration from Rogers Williams University and was enrolled in a Certificate Program at  
14 Cornell University; and

15           WHEREAS, Andrew Baynes served our country with honor in the United States Coast  
16 Guard from 1967 through 1971. Once he completed his service, he became a member of the  
17 Warwick Fire Department. Through his tenure with the department, he served as a firefighter,  
18 rescue driver and officer, a Fire Lieutenant and Fire Captain and was ultimately promoted to the  
19 position of Battalion Chief. He retired from the department in July of 2002; and

1           WHEREAS, In 2007, Chief Baynes was named Chief of the Town of Johnston Fire  
2 Department, a position he held until 2011, when shortly thereafter, he took the helm as Chief of  
3 the Central Coventry Fire District; and

4           WHEREAS, While Chief Baynes' family always came first in his heart, his firefighters  
5 and the district were never far from his thoughts. Although faced with myriad financial hurdles,  
6 he earned the highest respect of Coventry's firefighters with whom he worked, and is credited  
7 with keeping "the troops calm and focused" as the district underwent receivership and  
8 reorganization; and

9           WHEREAS, Chief Baynes' dedication and service to the Warwick, Johnston, and  
10 Coventry communities and his profession also included membership and leadership positions on  
11 numerous professional associations and committees. In addition, he attended many fire safety and  
12 training programs and was a registered nurse, serving as the assistant Director of Nursing  
13 Services for the Institute of Mental Health from 1988 until 1993; and

14           WHEREAS, Many people will go through their lives without any personal contact with a  
15 potential life or death situation, without a defining moment that turns an ordinary person into a  
16 hero. Chief Baynes faced such challenges many times over during the course of his career as a  
17 firefighter and there is no doubt that he left this world a far better place because of his life's  
18 endeavors; now, therefore be it

19           RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and  
20 Providence Plantations hereby extends its deepest sympathy on the untimely passing of Chief  
21 Andrew J. Baynes; and be it further

22           RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
23 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Mrs. Ann Baynes and Family.

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