

2015 -- H 6349

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LC002898
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2015

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

**HONORING BILL STAMP, JR., FOR HIS OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO AGRICULTURE
AND THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

Introduced By: Representatives Naughton, Handy, Reilly, Shekarchi, and Filippi

Date Introduced: June 24, 2015

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, Thomas Jefferson is quoted as saying, "Those who labor in the earth are the
2 chosen people of God," and believing this to be true, Bill Stamp, Jr., has spent much of his life as
3 their champion, advocate, and voice in our state and across this nation; and

4 WHEREAS, Inarguably, no one has done more for farmers and farming in Rhode Island
5 than Bill Stamp, Jr. As President of the Rhode Island Farm Bureau (RIFB) from 1973 to 2014, he
6 was the longest of any farmer in the nation to serve as a State President and has been on the
7 forefront of efforts to improve the nation's constantly evolving agriculture system for more than
8 four decades; and

9 WHEREAS, An outspoken advocate of property rights and farmers' rights, Mr. Stamp
10 spearheaded one of the strongest "right-to-farm" laws in the country, as well as the state's Farm
11 Forest and Open Space Act, which allows property enrolled in the program to be assessed at its
12 current use, not its value for development; and

13 WHEREAS, In the 1970's, working with then Governor J. Joseph Garrahy, Mr. Stamp
14 was instrumental in establishing the Development Rights Program which further protected open
15 space and farmland in our state; and

16 WHEREAS, More recently, RIFB, under Mr. Stamp's leadership, helped to ensure
17 passage of Inheritance Tax Legislation which allows future generations to continue farming, and
18 numerous other initiatives beneficial to farmers; and

19 WHEREAS, In addition, Bill Stamp has significantly contributed to the presence and

1 health of agriculture in the state, which in turn provides our citizens with an abundant supply of
2 more nutritious and affordable food; and

3 WHEREAS, Bill Stamp's dedication to the soil and the men and women who spend their
4 lives tilling the land is eminently deserving of our recognition and gratitude. He has not only
5 helped to feed the people of this state, but he has also helped preserve the land we farm for our
6 children and their children; now, therefore be it

7 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
8 Providence Plantations hereby honors and thanks Bill Stamp, Jr., for his dedicated service to
9 agriculture and the people of this state and our nation; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
11 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Mr. Bill Stamp, Jr.

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