

**2016 -- H 8358**

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**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2016**

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

**HONORING LAWRENCE W. POITRAS ON HIS RETIREMENT AFTER FORTY YEARS  
OF DEDICATED SERVICE IN EDUCATION**

Introduced By: Representatives Phillips, Morin, Casey, Lima, and Solomon

Date Introduced: June 16, 2016

Referred To: House read and passed

1           WHEREAS, A dedicated, innovative educator and administrator, Larry Poitras has  
2 distinguished himself throughout his career in education. His leadership as Principal of Good  
3 Shepherd Junior High School has clearly been exemplary, and he has earned the admiration of his  
4 colleagues, and the gratitude and respect of all the children he has guided for the past four  
5 decades; and

6           WHEREAS, Larry Poitras was born and raised in Woonsocket. He served in the United  
7 States Army and was stationed in New Jersey and Germany during the Vietnam War years. Upon  
8 returning stateside, he attended Rhode Island Junior College, now known as the Community  
9 College of Rhode Island, under the G.I. Bill, and made the life-changing discovery that education  
10 was his calling and history was his passion; and

11           WHEREAS, In 1975, Mr. Poitras earned his degree from Rhode Island College, and  
12 began his teaching career at LaSalle Academy as a substitute teacher. In 1976, he joined the staff  
13 at what would become the Woonsocket Catholic Regional Junior High School; and

14           WHEREAS, Taking an innovative approach to history, Mr. Poitras developed a course on  
15 the history of the City of Woonsocket and a half-year elective on the study of the Holocaust; and

16           WHEREAS, Eventually, Mr. Poitras' history classroom was moved to the new Good  
17 Shepherd Junior High School and within a few years, he was promoted to Principal. Missing the  
18 challenges of teaching, he returned to the classroom, but within a few years, was once again  
19 asked to accept the position as Principal, a position he has held ever since; and

1           WHEREAS, In addition to his 40 years in education, Mr. Poitras is a widely-known 33-  
2 year veteran radio personality on WNRI, AM-1380 in Woonsocket, a position he will not be  
3 retiring from any time soon. He has been married to his wife, Elizabeth Poitras, for 46 years, and  
4 together they are the parents of two daughters, Jennifer MacDonald and Aimee Bernier, and the  
5 very proud grandparents of three grandchildren. He is also active as a volunteer at the Stadium  
6 Theatre; and

7           WHEREAS, Mr. Poitras is retiring in June of 2016, after forty years of dedicated,  
8 devoted and distinguished service to the students and citizens of Woonsocket. The  
9 accomplishments and strides he has made in the educational experience for the children at Good  
10 Shepherd Junior High School will be felt for generations; now, therefore be it

11           RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and  
12 Providence Plantations hereby honors and commends Lawrence Poitras on the occasion of his  
13 retirement. We thank him for all his efforts and wish him good health, fulfillment and much  
14 success in all his future endeavors; and be it further

15           RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
16 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Mr. Lawrence Poitras.

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