

2016 -- S 2913

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2016

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SENATE RESOLUTION

CONGRATULATING RUTH BARGE THUMBTZEN ON BEING SELECTED AS ONE OF  
THE 2016 NEWPORT DAILY NEWS COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD WINNERS

Introduced By: Senators Paiva Weed, DiPalma, Felag, Pagliarini, and Lombardi

Date Introduced: April 14, 2016

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, The Newport Daily News established a "Community Service Award" in  
2 1996 on the paper's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration in order to recognize and encourage  
3 volunteerism within the community; and

4 WHEREAS, Chosen from a field of nearly 20 nominees, Ruth Thumtzen, who retired  
5 after 30 years as a physical education and health teacher at Thompson Middle School and 10  
6 years as a community liaison for Salve Regina University, was selected as one of the 2016  
7 recipients of this prestigious award for the "variety of organizations" and "the lasting impact" of  
8 her volunteer efforts; and

9 WHEREAS, Born and raised in Selma, Alabama, Ms. Thumtzen grew up in a family  
10 that understood and actively contributed to the betterment of their community and this country. In  
11 the 1960s, her mother worked with the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., during the civil rights  
12 movement, and her father served in the United States Navy for 25 years; and

13 WHEREAS, To the immense benefit of the City of Newport, Mr. Barge's military service  
14 resulted in Ruth's family moving to the city during her college years. Upon graduation from  
15 Hampton University, she moved to Newport and took a position teaching at the middle school;  
16 and

17 WHEREAS, Throughout her career in education, and her subsequent retirement, Ms.  
18 Thumtzen has volunteered for myriad initiatives and organizations but perhaps more  
19 monumental has been her guidance and the inspiration she provides to all around her; and

1           WHEREAS, Ruth Thumbtzen's dedication and "boundless energy" have resulted in the  
2       formation of the Aquidneck Island Minority Scholarship Fund, mentoring myriad students,  
3       spending her Sunday's distributing a sundry of care and comfort items to patients at the hospital  
4       and her Fridays at the hospital's gift shop, as well as collaborating on projects to get college  
5       students involved with the local hospital in various volunteer roles; and

6           WHEREAS, In addition, Ms. Thumbtzen is the founder and President of the Mora E.  
7       Brown Hammonds Scholarship Fund, has served as President of the Board of Directors for the  
8       Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Community Center, joined efforts with her siblings to create the  
9       Pauline Hudson Barge Memorial Scholarship in honor of their mother, and has served on the  
10      Board of Trustees and as Vice President of the Newport Public Library; and

11          WHEREAS, In 2014, Ms. Thumbtzen was honored with the Newport County  
12      Community Mental Health Center's Board of Directors Award for the many years she served on  
13      the Board and for her commitment to the organization and the community. She has also been a  
14      longtime volunteer at the Newport Art Museum and served on the Board of Directors of Freedom  
15      Housing, Inc. and the Salvation Army; and

16          WHEREAS, Ruth Thumbtzen's loyalty, dedication and commitment to her friends and  
17      the community are well known, and this generous and spirited lady is a true role model for us all  
18      and eminently worthy of this award and our utmost gratitude; now, therefore be it

19          RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
20      hereby congratulates and honors Ms. Ruth Barge Thumbtzen on being selected as one of the 2016  
21      Newport Daily News Community Service Award Winners. Her years of devoted service to the  
22      community are an inspiration to us all; and be it further

23          RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
24      transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Ms. Ruth Barge Thumbtzen.

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