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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2016

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

**THANKING BERNARD BEAUDREAU FOR HIS TWENTY-SIX YEARS OF EXEMPLARY
AND DEVOTED SERVICE TO THE CITIZENS OF RHODE ISLAND**

Introduced By: Senator Juan M. Pichardo

Date Introduced: June 09, 2016

Referred To: Placed on the Senate Consent Calendar

1 WHEREAS, Mr. Bernie Beaudreau began his distinguished public service career in 1977,
2 serving as a community planner working on myriad issues including job training, community and
3 housing development programs for South County Community Action, and assisting organizations
4 such as OIC of Rhode Island, the Women's Development Corporation, and the Community
5 College of Rhode Island; and

6 WHEREAS, Mr. Boudreau served as the Executive Director of the Rhode Island
7 Community Food Bank from 1995 to 2006. Under his leadership, the Food Bank grew its base of
8 financial donors from 4,600 to 30,000 by 2005, increased annual donor contributions from
9 \$400,000 to \$3,000,000, increased food distribution from three to nine million pounds, increased
10 food assistance from less than 30,000 people to 50,000 people monthly, increased the number of
11 full-time employees from eighteen to forty-five, and managed an 8.2 million capital campaign
12 that resulted in the Food Bank's relocation to a new, state-of-the-art 77,000 square foot facility;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, Mr. Beaudreau, in his capacity as the Executive Director of the Food Bank
15 was also known for his innovative policy and program initiatives. He developed and designed a
16 new multi-year hunger-free state initiative to broaden the Food Bank's mission to include working
17 towards the elimination of hunger and its causes. He was also at the forefront of efforts to restore
18 food stamps for legal immigrants, expand school breakfast programs to all schools in the state of
19 Rhode Island, and to reduce barriers to Food Stamps for eligible households. In addition, he led a

1 number of fasts and summits involving community leaders, activists, religious leaders, corporate
2 leaders, and government officials to bring attention to the issues of child poverty and hunger; and

3 WHEREAS, Mr. Beaudreau served from 2008 to 2016 as the Executive Director of Serve
4 Rhode Island. Under his guidance, the organization administered \$2 million in AmeriCorps
5 programs involving 200 to 300 AmeriCorps volunteers for the state. He also directed the
6 Volunteer Center at Serve Rhode Island, developed internships and work experience AmeriCorps
7 programs in Providence and Pawtucket for low-income high school youth, developed a number of
8 volunteer programs for unemployed workers and public assistance recipients, helped to increase
9 volunteerism among older adults and seniors, and developed volunteer programs that helped
10 improve schools, clean up the environment and assist in disaster recovery work. Additionally, he
11 worked with Senator Juan Pichardo to create an inner-city neighborhood initiative to increase
12 career employment and opportunities for youth and parents; and

13 WHEREAS, Mr. Beaudreau served as the International Development Director from 1984
14 to 1995 and from 2006 to 2008, where he was Chief Development Officer for Oxfam America
15 and the Global Food Banking Network. He also devoted much of his free time in service to
16 numerous nonprofit boards including Edesia Global Nutrition Solutions, McAuley Ministries,
17 OIC of Rhode Island, the Women's Development Corporation, the George Wiley Center, and the
18 Ocean State Youth Orchestra; now, therefore be it

19 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
20 hereby thanks Mr. Bernard Beaudreau for his twenty-six years of exemplary and devoted service
21 to the citizens of Rhode Island; 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 Mr. Bernard Beaudreau.

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