

**2017 -- H 5364**

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LC001204  
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**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017**

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

CONGRATULATING THE NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS ON THEIR STERLING 2016-2017  
NFL SEASON AND WISHING THEM CONTINUED SUCCESS ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY  
5, 2017, AGAINST THE ATLANTA FALCONS IN THE SUPER BOWL

Introduced By: Representatives Marshall, Kennedy, Shekarchi, Morgan, and Mattiello

Date Introduced: February 02, 2017

Referred To: House read and passed

1           WHEREAS, In the 2016-2017 NFL season, the New England Patriots had yet another  
2 elite season as they once again won the AFC East Division, and compiled an outstanding 14-2  
3 regular season record, the best in the NFL. To get to the Super Bowl, the Patriots defeated the  
4 Houston Texans in their first playoff game 34 to 16, and thrashed their perennial rival, the  
5 Pittsburgh Steelers 36 to 17 in the AFC Championship game; and

6           WHEREAS, The Patriots were once again led by the best Head Coach in the NFL, and  
7 arguably the best Head Coach in the history of pro football, Bill Belichick. Coach Belichick,  
8 during his Patriots coaching tenure, has compiled an incredible 201-71 regular season and 24-9  
9 playoff record. He has won four Super Bowls in six appearances, fourteen division titles in  
10 sixteen seasons, winning eight in a row, and incredibly, leading the Patriots to a first place finish  
11 or a tie for first place in the AFC East Division for sixteen straight seasons; and

12           WHEREAS, The Patriots were balanced on both sides of the field this season. The  
13 Patriots offense, despite losing Rob Gronkowski to injury and not having Tom Brady for the first  
14 four regular season games, led the AFC in points scored and were second in the NFL in points  
15 scored. The Patriots accomplished this thanks to their superb offensive line play, coached by  
16 Rhode Island resident Dante Scarnecchia, the tough and consistent rushing provided by Le  
17 Garrette Blount, who rushed for more than 1,000 yards, a vastly underrated receiving corps, and,  
18 of course, the stellar play of quarterback Tom Brady, the greatest quarterback in NFL history.  
19 Tom Brady once again compiled off-the-charts passing statistics, completing 67.4 percent of his

1 passes and throwing twenty-eight touchdowns with only two interceptions; and

2 WHEREAS, The Patriots also benefited all season from a stingy defense that led the NFL  
3 in fewest points allowed. They were led by the lock down passing defense skills of corner back  
4 Malcolm Butler, who led the team with four interceptions, and the leadership provided by Dont'a  
5 Hightower, a superb linebacker who called the plays for the defense. Finally, none of the Patriots'  
6 phenomenal success over the last sixteen seasons would have been possible without the skillful  
7 management that has been provided by the New England Patriots owner, Robert Kraft; now,  
8 therefore be it

9 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and  
10 Providence Plantations hereby congratulates the New England Patriots on their outstanding 2016-  
11 2017 NFL season, and wishes them continued success on Sunday, February 5, 2017, against the  
12 Atlanta Falcons in the Super Bowl; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
14 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Mr. Robert Kraft.

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