

2017 -- H 6063

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LC002409
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017

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

**CONGRATULATING TONY PETRARCA FOR HIS THIRTY YEARS OF EXCELLENCE AS
A METEOROLOGIST WITH WPRI-TV**

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

Date Introduced: April 04, 2017

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, Anthony Ralph Petrarca, a native Rhode Islander and the son of Ralph
2 Anthony "Hap" Petrarca and Catherine Petrarca, was always fascinated by the varying weather
3 patterns and quick temperature changes that are a part of Rhode Island culture and lore. As a
4 young boy Tony grew up in the ocean state, and had a "weather wall" at home where he would
5 track snowstorms and hurricanes and dream of being a meteorologist on television; and

6 WHEREAS, Tony Petrarca is a graduate of Toll Gate High School in Warwick. He
7 matriculated at Lyndon State College in Vermont, where he earned a Bachelor's degree in
8 Meteorology. On March 17, 1987, he fulfilled his childhood dream when he was hired by WPRI
9 as a television meteorologist and recalls his first time on TV as "the scariest 3 ½ minutes of my
10 life"; and

11 WHEREAS, Tony credits the Blizzard of '78 with peaking his interest in tracking the
12 weather. Since then, he has covered Tropical Storm Irene and the destruction along the shoreline
13 from Super Storm Sandy, numerous blizzards, over 100 inches of snow in 1995, major nor'easters
14 and the historic floods of 2010 that brought widespread torrents of rain and river overflow to area
15 communities; and

16 WHEREAS, Tony Petrarca is a member of the American Meteorological Society where
17 he received their highest hallmark of approval when he was given the "A.M.S. Broadcast Seal of
18 Approval" award. In 2012, he was inducted into the National Academy of Television Arts and
19 Sciences' Silver Circle; and

1 WHEREAS, Tony Petrarca has been nominated six times for a New England Emmy
2 Award, has been voted the Most Accurate Meteorologist ten times by Rhode Island Monthly
3 Magazine's annual reader's poll, and led the Eyewitness News Pinpoint Weather team in winning
4 the Associated Press award for "Best Weathercast" seven times, including winning the award six
5 times in a row. One of the highlights of his career occurred when he spent a weekend at the
6 summit of Mt. Washington Observatory in New Hampshire, an event which later became the
7 focus of an Emmy nominated documentary entitled "On Top Of New England"; and

8 WHEREAS, Tony Petrarca also spends much of his free time giving back to the
9 community. He has visited more than six hundred elementary schools over the past twenty-seven
10 years, teaching youngsters about weather. He is involved in numerous charitable organizations
11 including the Tomorrow Fund, Meeting Street School, the East Bay Coalition for The Homeless,
12 Crossroads Homeless Shelter, The Fogarty Center, and Hasbro Children's Hospital. He has also
13 served as a member of the Board of Directors for the Multiple Sclerosis Society and is a co-host
14 for the annual Meeting Street Telethon, and former co-host of the Jerry Lewis Muscular
15 Dystrophy Association Telethon. In 2015, he received the "Sons of Italy Service Award." He also
16 serves as a Eucharistic Minister at Sacred Heart Church in West Warwick, Rhode Island, and is
17 the devoted father of three children; now, therefore be it

18 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
19 Providence Plantations hereby congratulates Tony Petrarca for thirty years of excellence as a
20 meteorologist with WPRI-TV. We thank him for his many civic contributions to our state and
21 local communities and wish him continued success in all his future endeavors; 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. Tony Petrarca.

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