

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017

SENATE RESOLUTION

HONORING AND THANKING AUGUSTO JOSE ALMEIDA PESSOA FOR HIS MANY CONTRIBUTIONS IN SUPPORT OF RHODE ISLAND DAY OF PORTUGAL AND THE PORTUGUESE-AMERICAN COMMUNITY IN RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Senators DaPonte, Satchell, Felag, Algieri, and Raptakis

Date Introduced: June 08, 2017

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, June 17, 2017, is the 40th Anniversary of the Day of Portugal in Rhode
2 Island. It is a day when we reflect upon and celebrate the significant contributions the Portuguese-
3 American community has made to the cultural and economic well-being of the State of Rhode
4 Island; and

5 WHEREAS, Mr. Augusto Jose Almeida Pessoa was born on April 18, 1947, in
6 Mangualde, Beira Alta, Portugal. He is married to Genoveva Ramos and has two children,
7 Nicholas and Jennifer; and

8 WHEREAS, Mr. Pessoa immigrated to the United States in 1972 and became an
9 American citizen on March 6, 1995. He has been a distinguished journalist for more than forty
10 years, working as a reporter for the Pawtucket Times and Television Channel 20, as a
11 correspondent for Radio Station WRCP, as a Photographic Reporter, and as a correspondent of
12 Radio Voice of "Mangualde." As a reporter or citizen, Mr. Pessoa has covered almost all of the
13 celebrations, commemorations, and the important political, social and cultural events that have
14 occurred within the Portuguese-American community in Rhode Island; and

15 WHEREAS, Mr. Pessoa has had the honor of reporting on numerous visits from high-
16 level officials to Rhode Island and, specifically, the Portuguese-American community. He
17 reported on the visit to Rhode Island and Massachusetts of the President of the Portuguese
18 Republic, Dr. Mario Soares, the visit by President Clinton to the Portuguese Social Club in Rhode
19 Island, the visit by His Excellency, the Secretary of State of the Portuguese Communities, Dr.

1 Luis de Sousa Macedo, to Rhode Island, the visit by His Excellency, the Ambassador of Portugal
2 in Washington, Dr. Francisco Knopfli, to Rhode island, the visit by His Excellency , the Secretary
3 of State of the Portuguese Communities, Eng. Jose Lello, to Rhode Island, the visit by Her
4 Excellency the Secretary of State of Education, Dr. Ana Benevente, to Rhode Island, and the visit
5 by His excellency, the Prime Minister, to Rhode Island; and

6 WHEREAS, Mr. Pessoa has been a tireless and faithful supporter of and contributor to
7 the Rhode Island Day of Portugal and the Portuguese Community in Rhode Island. He has served
8 as President of the "Day of Portugal" Commemorations in 1982 and 2003, is the founder of the
9 "Miss Day of Portugal" Rhode Island Contest, was Vice-President of the "Day of Portugal"
10 Commemorations in 1988, founder and President of the Luso-American Sports Car, President of
11 the "Mangualdenses", United States, 1980 and 1984, Vice-President of the "Mangualdenses",
12 United States, 1988, Director of the Lusitana Youth Club, Cumberland, member of the
13 Portuguese Social Club in Pawtucket, and a member of the Holy Spirit of St. Anthony Church in
14 Pawtucket. He has also served with distinction with the Portuguese-American Citizens
15 Committee, the Portuguese Army (Commission Guine-Bissau), and the Sagres Naval Academy;
16 now, therefore be it

17 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
18 hereby honors and thanks Augusto Jose Almeida Pessoa for his many contributions in support of
19 Rhode Island Day of Portugal and the Portuguese-American community in Rhode Island; and be
20 it further

21 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
22 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Mr. Augusto Jose Almeida Pessoa.

=====
LC002859
=====