

2020 -- S 2943

=====
LC005586
=====

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2020

SENATE RESOLUTION

THANKING THE HONORABLE SENATOR HAROLD M. METTS FOR THIRTY YEARS OF
DISTINGUISHED SERVICE IN THE RHODE ISLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY AS A
MEMBER OF BOTH THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Introduced By: Senators Ruggerio, McCaffrey, Goodwin, Gallo, and Conley

Date Introduced: December 18, 2020

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, Harold M. Metts was born in 1947. He is the husband of Dayus L. Metts
2 and together they were blessed with three children, Harold, Jr., Darren and Ja'de, as well as eight
3 grandchildren and one great-grandson. He graduated from Central High School, earned his
4 Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Roger Williams University in 1970, his Social
5 Business Teacher Certification from Bryant College in 1975, and a Masters of Education-
6 Secondary Administration from Rhode Island College in 1983; and

7 WHEREAS, Senator Metts is a retired former Assistant Principal for the Providence
8 School Department where he was widely admired for his tireless work ethic and his abiding
9 passion for making a positive difference in the lives of disadvantaged and at-risk youth; and

10 WHEREAS, A man of deep faith and conviction, Senator Metts has devoted his life
11 towards making a difference in his community. He is a member of the Providence Branch of the
12 NAACP and the Urban League, serves on the Deacon Board for the Congdon Street Baptist
13 Church, and volunteers his time in prison ministry. In addition, Senator Metts served our nation
14 with honor and distinction as a member of the Rhode Island Army National Guard from 1970 to
15 1976; and

16 WHEREAS, For thirty years Senator Metts has represented his Providence constituents in
17 the Rhode Island General Assembly, first serving in the House of Representatives from 1984 to
18 1998, and as a member of the Rhode Island Senate since 2005. He currently serves as the Vice
19 Chair of the Senate Committee on Education and the Secretary of the Senate Committee on

1 Judiciary; and

2 WHEREAS, Senator Mett's expertise on issues related to urban affairs, education and
3 equal justice have always been held in high regard by his fellow Senate colleagues. His efforts on
4 behalf of working families, the incarcerated, and all underprivileged and unrepresented
5 communities have included increasing access and funding for affordable housing, raising the
6 minimum wage multiple times, increasing funding for job training and for Providence's schools,
7 restoring funding for RIPTA's free and reduced bus fare program for the elderly and handicapped,
8 and championing the Madeline Walker Act to prohibit wrongful evictions; and

9 WHEREAS, Working to break down the barriers for minority communities and end
10 systemic racism, Senator Metts championed the Police Relationship Act of 2015 that forced state
11 and local law enforcement agencies to report and take action on racial disparities in traffic stops
12 and other documented searches, and Ban the Box legislation that prohibits employers from
13 summarily dismissing job applicants because of their record. He also worked for expungement
14 reform, legislation to overhaul the state's occupational licensing statutes to ensure those with
15 criminal records have a second chance because in his words, "No one was ever sentenced to a life
16 in the unemployment line," and sponsored legislation to eliminate "Providence Plantations" from
17 the state's name; and

18 WHEREAS, Senator Metts is a well-respected elder statesman of the Senate who is
19 deeply admired for his decorum and collegial manners and his presence in the Senate will be
20 deeply missed by his colleagues and the citizens of Rhode Island; now, therefore be it

21 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island hereby thanks Senator Harold
22 Metts for his thirty years of exemplary and meritorious service in the Rhode Island General
23 Assembly, and wishes him continued good health, happiness, and success in all his future
24 endeavors; and be it further

25 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
26 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the Honorable Senator Harold M. Metts.

=====
LC005586
=====