

2023 -- H 6173

LC002585

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2023

HOUSE RESOLUTION

WELCOMING THE GOLDEN RULE SAILBOAT TO RHODE ISLAND IN SUPPORT OF A
NUCLEAR-FREE WORLD

Introduced By: Representatives Stewart, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Alzate, Morales,
Chippendale, Sanchez, Cruz, Voas, and Henries

Date Introduced: March 21, 2023

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, The dangers of nuclear war have been known to the world since August 6,
2 1945, with the destruction of Hiroshima; and

3 WHEREAS, An interfaith group was established in June of 1957, an ad hoc committee
4 named Non-Violent Action Against Nuclear Weapons (NVA); and

5 WHEREAS, The Quakers in Britain, led by Harold Steals, attempted to sail to Christmas
6 Island, 1,000 miles South of Hawaii, to witness in protest, the British use of the Island for nuclear
7 weapons testing, but did not get further than Japan; and

8 WHEREAS, In the United States, there were announcements in September of 1957, that
9 the United states would conduct a series of nuclear weapons testing at Eniwetok, in the Marshall
10 Islands, in April of 1958; and

11 WHEREAS, The Quakers led vigils, letter writing, and public protests against the
12 proposed nuclear testing, all of which went unheeded and, in many cases, unacknowledged; and

13 WHEREAS, A Quaker, Albert Bigelow, a 30-year veteran of the United States Navy, a
14 sponsor of several Hiroshima Maidens, felt the calling of need for nonviolent action and proposed
15 sailing into the Marshall Islands in April of 1958, to protest and stop the nuclear testing; and

16 WHEREAS, A ketch, built in Costa Rica, which was approximately 30 feet in length,
17 was purchased by Albert Bigelow and outfitted and rigged in short time to sail from the West
18 Coast to Hawaii and then on to the Marshall Islands, seeking to enter the designated testing area
19 by April 1, 1958, and remain there in an effort to bear witness to all men that it is essential for all

1 of humanity to witness that the race to extinction be stopped; and

2 WHEREAS, Albert Bigelow and three other Quakers, a crew of four, left San Pedro,
3 California, on February 10, 1958, stopped at Hawaii for provisioning and maintenance, and was
4 then intercepted by the Coast Guard, arrested, charged, tried, and sentenced, with their
5 convictions being overturned on appeal; and

6 WHEREAS, The Golden Rule did not complete its anti-nuclear weapons voyage to the
7 Marshall Islands, but generated immense international support and sympathy and formed an
8 integral part of peace witnessing that eventually led to the Limited Test Ban Treaty of 1963; and

9 WHEREAS, The Golden Rule was sold in Honolulu and was not heard of in the decades
10 that followed until it was discovered at the bottom of Humboldt Bay in California in 2009; and

11 WHEREAS, The Golden Rule's imminent destruction as worthless salvage was stopped
12 by a group of Veterans for Peace and Quakers in Humboldt Bay, and slowly restored over six
13 years and relaunched in June of 2015; and

14 WHEREAS, Since 2015, the Golden Rule has sailed to multiple ports providing
15 educational presentations sending the message that there is no room for nuclear weapons in the
16 home of humanity; and

17 WHEREAS, The Young Friends of the New England Yearly Meeting in 1978, reported
18 on the findings of a public opinion poll of non-Quaker communities and their ideas concerning
19 bomb-testing, peace talks and the prospects of East-West co-existence, with their conclusion
20 being that there was a widespread lack of constructive interest in peace that was very disturbing,
21 and concluded that the Young Friends had to do something about it themselves; and

22 WHEREAS, The religious roots of the Golden Rule include a belief that each individual,
23 regardless of color, race, creed, or nationality is sacred, and that nuclear weapons are a grave
24 threat to all individuals, groups and nations, and this threat of total destruction is a violation of the
25 ancient concept of the oneness of humanity; and

26 WHEREAS, The Golden Rule, the first peace vessel, is an icon and a symbol of peace,
27 that continues to sail as a testament to its message of peace; and

28 WHEREAS, The Golden Rule is scheduled to visit Narragansett Bay in the month of
29 June, from June 11 to June 13; now, therefore be it

30 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
31 welcomes the Golden Rule Sailboat to Rhode Island in support of a nuclear-free world; and be it
32 further

1 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
2 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Ms. Helen Jaccard, Golden Rule Project
3 Manager.

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