

2024 -- H 8111

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

HOUSE RESOLUTION

CONGRATULATING AND HONORING KALI REIS FOR HER AMAZING
ACCOMPLISHMENTS AS AN ACTRESS AND CHAMPION BOXER

Introduced By: Representatives Vella-Wilkinson, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Kazarian,
Chippendale, Donovan, Alzate, Stewart, Cruz, and Fenton-Fung

Date Introduced: March 28, 2024

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, Kali Reis was born in Providence and grew up in the City of East
2 Providence, the youngest of five children. Her ancestry is a collaboration of Native American or
3 Indigenous Wampanoag and Cape Verdean, which often left her feeling like she didn't quite
4 check the standard box; and

5 WHEREAS, Growing up, Ms. Reis was very sporty and musical, which kept her feeling
6 grounded. A passion and incredible talent for boxing eventually provided her with the outlet she
7 needed to channel her energies in a productive way, and at the age of about 15 or 16, she began
8 boxing at Big Six Boxing Academy in Providence, and soon made a name for herself in the
9 boxing ranks; and

10 WHEREAS, Ms. Reis's boxing acumen brought her to the heights of the sport. She is a
11 former world champion in two weight classes, having held the WBC female middleweight title in
12 2016, and the WBA, WBO, and IBO female light welterweight titles between 2020 and 2022. In
13 2021, she had moved to Philadelphia to train and ended up marrying her best friend and boxing
14 manager, Brian Cohen; and

15 WHEREAS, Sadly, in 2017, Ms. Reis lost her brother to brain cancer. The two had
16 shared their love of boxing, often training together, and following his passing, she knew she
17 needed more. During those years she had also turned to her heritage. As a member of the
18 Seaconke Wampanoag Tribe, she became an activist, uplifting and empowering indigenous
19 voices, fighting for the tribe's federal recognition in Rhode Island and Massachusetts, and

1 bringing awareness to different indigenous issues in the Native community, such as missing and
2 murdered Indigenous women, pipelines, and residential schools; and

3 WHEREAS, While searching for her path forward, Ms. Reis was approached by the
4 writer/director of the first movie she was in, "Catch the Fair One", who asked her to help write
5 the story for "Catch the Fair One," which was about missing and murdered indigenous women.
6 He also wanted her to be the lead actress in the film, and sent her to acting workshops and
7 provided her with an acting coach. Her efforts earned her the Jury Award for Best Actress at the
8 2021 Newport Beach Film Festival; and

9 WHEREAS, From her initial foray into acting, Ms. Reis "hit the ground running" and in
10 2023, was cast in the film "Asphalt City." She was also named co-lead of "True Detective: Night
11 Country", in which she stars alongside Jodie Foster as a detective investigating the disappearance
12 of eight men in Alaska, and which is now in its 4th season on HBO; and

13 WHEREAS, Kali Reis is a true inspiration to us all and she is eminently deserving of our
14 recognition and praise; now, therefore be it

15 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
16 congratulates and honors Kali Reis for her amazing accomplishments as an actress, activist and
17 champion boxer, and extends heartfelt best wishes for her good health, continued success and
18 much happiness; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
20 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Ms. Kali Reis.

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