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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019

SENATE RESOLUTION

HONORING THE LATE HERBERT F. SPENCER FOR HIS DECADES OF OUTSTANDING
SERVICE TO THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Senator Harold M. Metts

Date Introduced: January 22, 2019

Referred To: Placed on the Senate Consent Calendar

1 WHEREAS, With exemplary dedication and consummate qualifications, Herbert F.
2 Spencer had advocated for and served the people of the State of Rhode Island and it is with deep
3 sadness that this Senate has learned of his passing; and

4 WHEREAS, For twenty-one years, Mr. Spencer had worked with the Department of
5 Administration, Equal Opportunity Office, retiring as the Assistant Administrator of the State
6 Equal Opportunity Programs; and

7 WHEREAS, Mr. Spencer was totally dedicated to those he served, and had an
8 unsurpassed record of achievement and advocacy on behalf of women, minorities, the physically
9 challenged, and the most vulnerable and underrepresented in our state; and

10 WHEREAS, For twenty-three years, Mr. Spencer had served as Rhode Island's first
11 African-American affirmative action officer, and at the age of thirty, became the first African-
12 American grand knight of the Knights of Columbus in Rhode Island with the J.A. Finnegan
13 Council in Providence. He had served our country with honor in the United States Army during
14 the Korean War which had strongly motivated him to pursue the cause of civil rights; and

15 WHEREAS, A loving family man, Mr. Spencer was devoted to his family. He was the
16 beloved husband of Barbara, the devoted father of Herbert, Jr., Roland, Christopher, Nelson, and
17 Letia, and the very proud grandfather of eight grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. He
18 diligently instilled a strong work ethic and the importance of civil rights in his children; and

19 WHEREAS, Upon retirement, Mr. Spencer had enjoyed many years cooking and

1 barbecuing for friends and family as well as watching Georgetown win on the court, and taking
2 trips to Martha's Vineyard; and

3 WHEREAS, Beloved by his friends and colleagues, and cherished by his family, Herbert
4 Spencer will be greatly missed and always remembered; now, therefore be it

5 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
6 hereby honors the late Herbert F. Spencer for his dedicated advocacy and service to the people of
7 Rhode Island and extends deepest condolences on his passing; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
9 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Mrs. Barbara Spencer and Family.

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