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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019

SENATE RESOLUTION

COMMEMORATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ANNUAL MEMORIAL DAY
PARADE IN SOUTH KINGSTOWN

Introduced By: Senators Sosnowski, Algieri, Valverde, Lombardi, and Felag

Date Introduced: May 23, 2019

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, Annually for the past 150 years, the Town of South Kingstown has held a
2 Memorial Day Parade to honor the memory of those brave service men and women who made the
3 ultimate sacrifice to protect and preserve the freedom and liberty we all cherish today; and

4 WHEREAS, Originally called "Decoration Day," Memorial Day was born out of the
5 American Civil War, a period of immense pain and sacrifice for the entire nation; and

6 WHEREAS, On May 29, 1869, South Kingstown Civil War Veterans and members of
7 Rodman Post 12 took part in a solemn procession, marching to the gravesite of Civil War Hero
8 and South Kingstown native, Brigadier General Isaac P. Rodman of the Union Army; and

9 WHEREAS, Brigadier General Rodman was born on August 12, 1822, in South
10 Kingstown. He had served as the President of the Town Council in South Kingstown and as a
11 member of the Rhode Island State Senate. Upon the start of the Civil War, he immediately
12 enlisted and received the rank of Captain with the 2nd Rhode Island Infantry Regiment. He then
13 saw combat in the First Battle of Bull Run, was promoted to the rank of Colonel with the new 4th
14 Rhode Island Infantry regiment and later fought in the battles of Roanoke Island, and New Byrne,
15 where his superior performance earned him a promotion to the rank of Brigadier General. After
16 the Battle of Fort Macon, General Rodman contracted typhoid fever and returned to South
17 Kingstown to convalesce; and

18 WHEREAS, While in recovery, General Burnside wrote to General Rodman and
19 informed him of his desperate need for officers in the forthcoming Maryland Campaign. While

1 still ill, and against the advice of his doctors, General Rodman answered the call of duty to take
2 part in the Battle of South Mountain and, shortly thereafter, the momentous and crucial Battle of
3 Antietam, a vital and strategic Union victory that cost the lives of more than 12,000 Union
4 soldiers and 10,000 Confederate troops. Tragically, General Rodman perished while he was
5 racing on his horse in open field to warn his fellow commanders of an impending Confederate
6 attack; and

7 WHEREAS, On May 27, 2019, the Town of South Kingstown will be holding its 150th
8 annual Memorial Day Parade to honor its native son, Brigadier General Isaac P. Rodman, and all
9 of the brave armed forces' men and women who have perished while in service to our nation and
10 in defense of our liberty and all the precious rights that make us a free nation; now, therefore be it

11 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
12 hereby commemorates the 150th Anniversary of the annual Memorial Day Parade in the Town of
13 South Kingstown on May 27, 2019; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
15 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to VFW Post 916, South Kingstown.

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