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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

JOYOUSLY CELEBRATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF "NICK & JOAN'S PLACE" IN  
WARWICK

Introduced By: Representatives Vella-Wilkinson, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Solomon,  
McNamara, Bennett, Shanley, Place, Kennedy, and Ajello

Date Introduced: March 14, 2024

Referred To: House read and passed

1           WHEREAS, Forty years ago, on March 14, 1984, Nick Degaitas and his wife of now 46  
2 years, Joan Degaitas, opened their restaurant "Nick & Joan's Place" and have conducted business  
3 every day based on the Golden Rule of treating each and every customer like a valued family  
4 member and close friend. Abiding daily by these rules as well as offering delicious food at  
5 family-friendly prices explains why "Nick & Joan's Place" has become a fixture and beloved  
6 institution in Warwick; and

7           WHEREAS, Nick Degaitas learned the skill of cooking as a youngster while watching his  
8 father and working in the family's restaurant, John's New York System in Providence. At the  
9 urging of his wife Joan, the Degaitases went about looking for a place to open a restaurant  
10 despite, in the words of Joan, only having \$100 dollars to their name; and

11           WHEREAS, Thankfully, a suitable place was found, and on March 14, 1984, "Nick &  
12 Joan's Place" opened on Warwick Avenue in the Gateway Shopping Center. Through the years  
13 the interior has pretty much remained the same, with the exception of a few repairs, while the  
14 menu changes on a daily basis, offering everything from the best wieners anywhere, thanks to  
15 Nick's father's special meat sauce recipe, to what many say is the best breakfast in town; and

16           WHEREAS, "Nick & Joan's Place" is a true family-run business with Nick manning the  
17 grill daily, and Joan waitressing, simmering soups, cooking the daily specials and whipping up  
18 delectable baked goods. Through the years, their four children and nineteen grandchildren have  
19 all contributed to the restaurant's success, learning about cooking and conducting business; and

1           WHEREAS, Over the years of running the restaurant and conducting business, Nick and  
2 Joan have never wavered from their moral and religious principles. They were the first local  
3 restaurant to ban indoor smoking, to their customers' applause, and never wavered from closing  
4 for business on Sundays, in order to keep the day for family and worship. The Degaitases are also  
5 devoted to making their community a better place in which to live. They have brought soup to  
6 sick customers, many of whom are shut-ins, regularly visit hospital rooms, and even attend the  
7 funerals of departed loyal customers. "Nick & Joan's Place" is a restaurant that truly puts its  
8 customers and the community first and that's why it has been such a success for the past forty  
9 years and assuredly for the next forty years; now, therefore be it

10           RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby  
11 joyously celebrates the 40th anniversary of "Nick & Joan's Place" in Warwick. We thank Nick  
12 and Joan Degaitas for all they do to enrich the local community on a daily basis and wish them  
13 many more years of success; 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 Nick and Joan Degaitas.

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