

2022 -- H 7151

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2022

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

HONORING AND CONGRATULATING PAM GASNER ON HER RETIREMENT AS THE  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE BLOCK ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Introduced By: Representatives Filippi, and Blazejewski

Date Introduced: January 25, 2022

Referred To: House read and passed

1           WHEREAS, Ms. Pam Gasner is a distinguished graduate of Colby College where she  
2 attained a Bachelor's degree in East Asian Studies/Art History. She also studied Chinese  
3 Language & Art History at Nanjing University in China, and has a professional working  
4 proficiency designation in Chinese and a limited working proficiency designation in French; and

5           WHEREAS, Ms. Gasner began her career with the Block Island Historical Society in  
6 1985, and through her dedication, tireless work ethic, and strong artistic skills, rose to the position  
7 of Executive Director of the Block Island Historical Society in 2008; and

8           WHEREAS, The Block Island Historical Society and its museum are blessed to have an  
9 extensive collection of important artifacts related to Block Island's rich history, from vintage  
10 photographs that capture life as it was lived during the Victorian era, to exhibits that include fine  
11 furniture, textiles, quilts, boat models, historic maps and numerous other interesting objects, all  
12 expertly displayed and catalogued by Ms. Gasner; and

13           WHEREAS, Over the years, Ms. Gasner has designed numerous beautiful and interesting  
14 exhibits highlighting various facets of Block Island and Rhode Island history, all of which have  
15 educated and delighted visitors. She has conducted countless research projects for both the  
16 society and inquiring patrons, and she did a superb job of managing the collections and staff of  
17 the Block Island Historical Society and its museum; and

18           WHEREAS, Under Ms. Gasner's leadership and guidance, the Block Island Historical  
19 Society building has had its roof raised, its floors repurposed, additions built and added, handicap

1 accessible entries and baths installed, a commercial kitchen installed, new zoned air conditioning  
2 and heating systems installed to better preserve artifacts, and somehow managed to remove 23 of  
3 the 52 windows and re-install them while at the same time meeting very strict architectural  
4 requirements; and

5 WHEREAS, All of the above accomplishments were made possible because Ms. Gasner,  
6 in her role as Executive Director, was responsible for almost all of the grant writing that secured  
7 the funds for most of the modernization projects including securing a final grant from the  
8 Annenberg Foundation on the day of her retirement; and

9 WHEREAS, Ms. Gasner is also a successful businesswomen and entrepreneur. She was  
10 the Gallery owner and Curator of the Crescent Pond Gallery for almost nine years, and was the  
11 Manager and Owner of the Coastal Design Corporation for almost twenty-two years. She was  
12 also the recipient of the 2010 Bayberry Wreath Laureate from the Block Island Times, and has  
13 served as a member of the New Shoreham Historic District Commission, Chair of the North Light  
14 Commission, and as Vice-President of the North Light Commission; now, therefore be it

15 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby  
16 honors and congratulates Ms. Pam Gasner on her retirement as the Executive Director of the  
17 Block Island Historical Society and wishes her good health and continued success in all her future  
18 endeavors; 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. Pam Gasner.

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