

2022 -- H 8263

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2022

HOUSE RESOLUTION

EXTENDING CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF STATE POLICE K-9 RUBY

Introduced By: Representatives Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Serpa, Chippendale, Amore,  
Noret, Hull, Bennett, C Lima, and Cortvriend

Date Introduced: May 18, 2022

Referred To: House read and passed

1           WHEREAS, It is with heartfelt sadness that this House has learned of the passing of  
2 Ruby, a noble and acclaimed State Police K-9, whose search and rescue work saved many lives  
3 and earned her the gratitude and respect of those she helped and the members of the Rhode Island  
4 State Police; and

5           WHEREAS, State Police K-9 Ruby had a difficult youth. She was a mix of border collie  
6 and Australian shepherd, with endless energy to burn and the need to work. Unfortunately, these  
7 same qualities that ultimately made her an outstanding search and rescue dog, almost cost her life;  
8 and

9           WHEREAS, Ruby was an abandoned dog who had been deemed unadoptable after being  
10 placed with a family but returned five times to the Rhode Island Society for the Prevention of  
11 Cruelty to Animals. Within hours of being euthanized, she was given a final chance when the  
12 State Police selected her for training in their K-9 Unit; and

13           WHEREAS, It has been said that intelligent dogs rarely want to please people whom they  
14 do not respect, so when Ruby teamed up with State Police Corporal Dan O'Neil, his dedication to  
15 her and her loyalty to him resulted in a partnership that saved lives and inspired our country to  
16 honor Ruby with the title "American Humane Hero Dog Search and Rescue Dog of the Year" in  
17 2018; and

18           WHEREAS, One of Ruby's best-known rescues occurred in 2017, when Ruby found an  
19 injured teenager in time for rescuers to save his life. As fate would have it, the rescued young  
20 man's mother had been key to Ruby entering K-9 training years earlier and the coincidence, as

1 well as the happy ending for all, inspired the 2022 Netflix movie, "Rescued by Ruby", a  
2 documentary film, "Searchdog" and numerous news features across the country; and

3 WHEREAS, Ruby served with the State Police for eleven years and in addition to her  
4 many search and rescue missions, she frequently appeared in schools and at community events;  
5 and

6 WHEREAS, It is often said that "Having a dog will bless you with many of the happiest  
7 days of your life, and one of the worst." Ruby the K-9 Rescue hero passed away after being  
8 diagnosed with a sudden and untreatable illness. She is deeply missed by all; now, therefore be it

9 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby  
10 expresses deepest sympathy on the passing of State Police K-9 Ruby and extends sincere  
11 gratitude for her years of service; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
13 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to State Police Corporal Dan O'Neil.

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