

2023 -- H 6515

LC003170

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2023

HOUSE RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE MARIA LOPES ON RECEIVING A LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD AND THE HONORABLE MARCIA RANGLIN-VASSELL ON RECEIVING THE LEGISLATIVE CHAMPION AWARD AT THE JUNETEENTH AWARDS LUNCHEON ON JUNE 17TH, 2023

Introduced By: Representatives Felix, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale, Tanzi, Diaz, Slater, Kislak, McEntee, and Morales

Date Introduced: June 12, 2023

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, On June 17th of 2023, BLM RI PAC is holding its first Juneteenth Awards
2 Luncheon to recognize those individuals whose efforts and accomplishments have had a
3 significant and positive effect for underrepresented individuals and have fostered inclusivity in
4 the legislature; and

5 WHEREAS, This year's Lifetime Achievement Award will be presented to Maria Lopes
6 who was the first Black Woman elected to the Rhode Island State Legislature and served in the
7 RI House of Representatives from 1989 through 2001; and

8 WHEREAS, The Honorable Maria Lopes was a pioneer who opened the door for women
9 to run and have a stronger voice in the General Assembly, and whose accomplishments brought
10 light on the issues facing Rhode Island's minority and underrepresented communities; and

11 WHEREAS, This year's Legislative Champion Award winner is Marcia Ranglin-Vassell,
12 a former member of the Rhode Island House of Representatives who represented the 5th District
13 from 2017 through 2022; and

14 WHEREAS, During her tenure in the House of Representatives, the Honorable Marcia
15 Ranglin-Vassell championed legislation in support of an equitable living wage, access and
16 reimbursement for doula services, bills to prevent gun violence, and support for numerous
17 education issues; and

18 WHEREAS, The Honorable Maria Lopes and the Honorable Marcia Ranglin-Vassell

1 were true champions who spearheaded numerous initiatives that made a positive difference in the
2 lives of countless Rhode Islanders; and

3 WHEREAS, These two esteemed former colleagues have undoubtedly earned the
4 gratitude and respect of the people of Rhode Island and are eminently deserving of this
5 recognition; now, therefore be it

6 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
7 recognizes and congratulates the Honorees, Marcia Ranglin-Vassell and Maria Lopes, on
8 receiving these distinguished Awards and for their diligent and dedicated efforts to represent and
9 better the lives of so many Rhode Islanders; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
11 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Black Lives Matter Rhode Island Political
12 Action Committee, the Honorable Maria Lopes, and the Honorable Marcia Ranglin-Vassell.

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