

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2002

S E N A T E R E S O L U T I O N

CONGRATULATING LILA RITCHOTTE ON HER RETIREMENT AND EXPRESSING
GRATITUDE FOR HER YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE TOWN OF
COVENTRY

Introduced By: Senators Blais, Breene, and Raptakis

Date Introduced: May 31, 2002

Referred To: Senate read and passed

1 WHEREAS, Lila Ritchotte moved to the Town of Coventry in 1963, and within five
2 years she began working as a volunteer for the town, serving as secretary to the recreational
3 facilities commission chaired by her husband, Alfred. Her performance in her first paid job as
4 secretary of the high school building committee quickly caught the attention of town officials and
5 set her on a path of government service that made a lasting impression on Coventry officials and
6 residents over a period spanning more than three decades; and

7 WHEREAS, When Coventry adopted a town manager form of government in 1973, Lila
8 was appointed to serve as the first executive secretary to the first town manager, Neil Michaelson,
9 and has served as executive secretary to the five town managers who have been appointed since
10 then. Her knowledge of town government is so thorough and her service so valued, that Lila
11 became known as Coventry's North Star – a dependable constant who has provided stability and
12 continuity during times of transition at Town Hall; and

13 WHEREAS, Lila's service to the town extended beyond the office of the Town Manager,
14 to her secretarial services to numerous town boards. She was so much a fixture of Coventry town
15 government and so committed to her hometown that it seemed fitting that Lila would be the one
16 to design Coventry's popular commemorative pens, plates, and pins and promote the town with
17 beautifully crafted items that have been presented to visiting dignitaries and cherished by
18 residents and town officials who share Lila's love for Coventry; and

19 WHEREAS, Despite the responsible and sometimes demanding nature of her job, Lila

1 found time in her busy life to share with local charities, including the Coventry Community Food
2 Bank, to help numerous local families when they fell upon hard times, to bake treats such as
3 peanut butter fudge for friends and co-workers on special occasions, and to advance her education
4 through ten years of classes at Roger Williams College, where she earned her associate's degree
5 in 1982; and

6 WHEREAS, Lila's dedication to her job and community was only surpassed by her
7 devotion to her family, which included her children Renee and Glen, and her loving husband,
8 Alfred, who has been a true partner in the household and with childrearing duties throughout their
9 many years together; and

10 WHEREAS, Lila Ritchotte has retired from her job to spend more time on the new porch
11 Alfred added to their home, to babysit her precious grandsons Daniel and Jared, and to enjoy
12 listening to country music. Although the legions of Coventry residents and officials who have
13 known Lila will miss the efficiency, professionalism, and infectious enthusiasm she brought to
14 Town Hall, all look forward to seeing her around town and wish her the happiness, good health,
15 and relaxation she so richly deserves; now, therefore be it

16 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
17 expresses its sincere appreciation to Lila for her years of loyal service to the citizens of Coventry,
18 and extends its best wishes for many happy memories and well-deserved leisure time in the years
19 ahead; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to
21 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Lila Ritchotte.

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