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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2013

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A N A C T

RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT - HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE
FLAG

Introduced By: Representatives MacBeth, Gallison, Slater, and Almeida

Date Introduced: February 27, 2013

Referred To: House Veterans` Affairs

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 42-4 of the General Laws entitled "State Emblems" is hereby
2 amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **42-4-19. Honor and remembrance flag.** – (a) The honor and remembrance flag created
4 by Honor and Remember, Inc., is hereby designated as the state's official emblem of service and
5 sacrifice by the brave men and women of the United States armed forces who have given their
6 lives in the line of duty and any police personnel, fire personnel, EMT's, rescue personnel, or any
7 branch of law enforcement who have lost their lives in the line of duty in response to a terrorist
8 activity.

9 (b) Findings. (1) Since the Revolutionary War, more than one million members of the
10 United States armed forces have paid the ultimate price by sacrificing their lives in the line of
11 duty.

12 (2) The contribution of those fallen members of the armed forces are deserving of
13 national recognition.

14 (3) Currently, there is no officially recognized symbol that specifically acknowledges
15 members of the armed forces who have died in the line of duty.

16 (c) Required display. The honor and remember flag shall be displayed at the locations
17 specified in subsection (c) on the days specified. The required honor and remember flag display
18 days are the following:

- 1 (1) Armed Forces Day, the third Saturday in May;
- 2 (2) Memorial Day, the last Monday in May;
- 3 (3) Flag Day, June 14;
- 4 (4) Fourth of July;
- 5 (5) National POW/MIA Recognition Day;
- 6 (6) Veterans' Day, November 11;
- 7 (7) Gold Star Mother's Day, the last Sunday of September; and
- 8 (8) Whenever there is a state military casualty.

9 In addition to the days specified in subdivision (2), the honor and remember flag should
10 display at all state military memorials and state veteran cemeteries any day on which the flag of
11 the United States is displayed.

12 (d) Locations for flag display. The locations for the display of the honor and remember
13 flag under subsection (b) are the following:

- 14 (1) The state capitol building;
- 15 (2) The building that serves as the location of the superior court in a county;
- 16 (3) The building that serves as the city or town hall of each incorporated city or town; and
- 17 (4) Any other state locations that are deemed appropriate for that state.

18 (e) Display to be in a manner visible to the public. Display of the honor and remember
19 flag pursuant to this section shall be in a manner designed to ensure visibility to the public.

20 (f) Limitation. This section may not be construed or applied so as to require any
21 employee to report to work solely for the purpose of providing for the display of the honor and
22 remember flag or any other flag.

23 (g) The honor and remember flag created by Honor and Remember, Inc. is designated as
24 the symbol of our state's concern and commitment to honoring and remembering the lives of all
25 members of the United States armed forces who have lost their lives while serving, or as a result
26 of service and their families.

27 The honor and remember flag's red field represents the blood shed by brave men and
28 women who sacrificed their lives for freedom and the flag's white field and border recognizes the
29 purity of that sacrifice. The flag's blue star is a symbol of active service in military conflict that
30 dates back to World War I. The flag's gold star signifies the ultimate sacrifice of a warrior in
31 active service who is not returning home and reflects the value of the life given. The folded flag
32 element highlights this nation's final tribute to a fallen service member and a family's sacrifice.
33 The flag's flame symbolizes the eternal spirit of the departed.

34 The honor and remember flag is a unifying symbol recognizing this nation's solemn debt

1 to the estimated one million six hundred thousand (1,600,000) fallen service members throughout
2 history and the families and communities who mourn their loss.

3 (h) Time of display. The flag shall be displayed in a manner visible to the public. Display
4 of the honor and remembrance flag pursuant to this section shall be in a manner designed to
5 ensure visibility to the public.

6 It should be displayed only from sunrise to sunset on buildings and on stationary
7 flagstaffs in the open. The flag may be displayed twenty-four (24) hours a day if properly
8 illuminated during the hours of darkness. It should be hoisted briskly and lowered ceremoniously.
9 It should not be displayed on days when the weather is inclement, except when an all-weather
10 flag is displayed.

11 (i) Presentation. The flag shall be presented to the family at the funeral for an active
12 serviceman, servicewoman, or any of the personnel referred to in subsection (a). The state of
13 Rhode Island shall assume the cost for these flags.

14 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT - HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE
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1 This act would designate the honor and remembrance flag created by Honor and
2 Remember, Inc. as the state's official emblem for United States military service members and any
3 rescue personnel involved in a terrorist-related response who have died in the line of duty that
4 also designates the dates and places of the flag's display.

5 This act would take effect upon passage.

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