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**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2013**

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**J O I N T   R E S O L U T I O N**

**THANKING REVEREND MONSIGNOR VICTOR M. VIEIRA FOR FORTY-FIVE YEARS  
OF FAITHFUL SERVICE TO GOD AND THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF RHODE  
ISLAND**

Introduced By: Senator Daniel DaPonte

Date Introduced: January 24, 2013

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1           WHEREAS, On June 11th of 1967, Reverend Victor M. Vieira was ordained to the Holy  
2 Priesthood by the Most Reverend Bishop D. Manuel Afonso de Carvalho. Over the course of the  
3 next four and a half decades, Reverend Monsignor Vieira has proven to be an inspiration to all  
4 who have had the pleasure to know him; and

5           WHEREAS, Born in Portugal on April 12th of 1942, Reverend Vieira attended the  
6 Seminary of Espirito Santo. Upon completion of his theological studies at the Diocesan Seminary  
7 of Angra do Heroismo and his ordination, Reverend Vieira celebrated his First Mass at Our Lady  
8 of Conception Church in Angra do Heroismo and a solemn Mass was celebrated at Our Lady of  
9 the Angels Church on July 18th of 1967; and

10           WHEREAS, Reverend Vieira was appointed Professor of the Primary School of Maliana  
11 in East Timor in September of 1967, while continuing to serve in the Mission in the Enclave of  
12 Oe-Cusse. Although he was forced to leave East Timor when political struggles created  
13 dangerous hostilities within the country, his faith and devotion to the Blessed Mother grew  
14 stronger; and

15           WHEREAS, After immigrating to the United States, Reverend Vieira was assigned as  
16 Assistant Pastor to St. Francis Xavier Church in East Providence in 1976. In 1987, he was named  
17 Pastor of Our Lady of Fatima Church in Cumberland, and later returned to St. Francis Xavier  
18 Church, where he faithfully served his parishioners as Pastor for twenty-six years until being  
19 assigned as Pastor Emeritus at St. Francis Xavier Church in May of 2012; and

1           WHEREAS, In January of 2009, The Most Reverend Thomas J. Tobin, Bishop of the  
2 Roman Catholic Diocese of Providence, announced that Reverend Vieira was named ‘Chaplain to  
3 His Holiness’ with the title of Reverend Monsignor, by The Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI.  
4 The title is bestowed in recognition of one’s service and commitment to the Church; and

5           WHEREAS, Over the course of his revered career, Reverend Monsignor Vieira has  
6 proven to be an outstanding administrator and spiritual leader. His perseverance and collaborative  
7 skills have provided his parish and parishioners with the resources necessary to ensure the  
8 augmentation of an excellent religious education program, significant improvements to the  
9 church’s infrastructure, and continuance of the parish community’s rich cultural and religious  
10 traditions; and

11           WHEREAS, Reverend Monsignor Vieira has spent his life in devout service to God.  
12 Through that unification, he has served and blessed the faithful, enriched the spiritual lives of  
13 many Rhode Islanders, and earned our total respect and admiration for his piety and service; now,  
14 therefore be it

15           RESOLVED, That this General Assembly of the State of Rhode Island and Providence  
16 Plantations is hereby pleased to honor and thank Reverend Monsignor Vieira for forty-five years  
17 of faithful service to God and the people of our state. We wish him good health and many more  
18 years of benevolent service to his fellow man; and be it further

19           RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to  
20 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Reverend Monsignor Victor M. Vieira.

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