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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2013

SENATE RESOLUTION

CONGRATULATING DR. FRANK W. DICHIARA ON FIFTY-SIX YEARS OF
HONORABLE SERVICE TO HIS PATIENTS, COMMUNITY, AND PROFESSION

Introduced By: Senators Gallo, Lombardi, and Ruggerio

Date Introduced: February 27, 2013

Referred To: Placed on the Senate Consent Calendar

1 WHEREAS, Dr. Di Chiara's record of service to the optometric community is founded
2 on the outstanding education he received. A graduate of La Salle Academy, he went on to
3 complete pre-medical courses at Providence College, and then received his doctorate from the
4 Pennsylvania College of Optometry; and

5 WHEREAS, Prior to starting his practice in 1956, Dr. Di Chiara interned at the Rhode
6 Island Hospital Ophthalmology Section and in a private practice. In 1959, he became the director
7 of the Low Vision Clinic at the Rhode Island Association for the Blind, now called In-Sight. He
8 headed the clinic for thirty years and wrote several articles on low vision. He also lectured many
9 times in the United States, including Florida, Texas, California, and Hawaii; and

10 WHEREAS, Over the course of his career, Dr. Di Chiara earned the respect and
11 admiration of his peers. He was admitted as a Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry in
12 1963 and became the twenty-seventh Diplomate in Low Vision in 1980, receiving Emeritus status
13 in 2005. He was honored by his colleagues with the Optometrist of the Year award in 1980 and
14 the Distinguished Service Award in 1987. He was appointed to the Board of Examiners in
15 Optometry by the Governor, serving as its chairman for four years. In addition, he was named
16 Alumnus of the Year by the Pennsylvania College of Optometry in 1998. That same year he was
17 honored by Saving Sight R.I. for his many contributions to the community. The Rhode Island
18 Optometric Association has presented its Lifetime Achievement Award to Dr. Frank W. Di
19 Chiara, the first doctor to receive this most prestigious award; and

1 WHEREAS, Dr. Di Chiara has also taken the time to better the lives of many others
2 through his community service. He has served on the Board of Directors of the Big Brothers of
3 R.I. for twenty years and was honored with the organization's Humanitarian Award in 2004. He
4 has been a member of many cultural and civic organizations, holding the position of President of
5 the Mount Pleasant Lions Club, the Clavis Cultural Club, the School Guild, and the Renaissance
6 Lodge. He raised over one million dollars in new eyeglass frames and, through the Lions Club,
7 donated them to a free eye clinic in India; and

8 WHEREAS, Dr. Frank Di Chiara married the love of his life, Esther I. Bontempo, in
9 1959. They have two children, Dr. Louise Marie Di Chiara Pastore, who practices with her father
10 at Garden City EyeCare, Inc. and a son, Frank W. Di Chiara, Jr. As busy as Dr. Di Chiara may
11 be, he always finds time to enjoy his grandchildren, Elena, Christina, and Peter; now, therefore be
12 it

13 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
14 hereby congratulates Dr. Frank W. Di Chiara on his fifty-six years of honorable service to his
15 patients, community, and profession. We applaud his accomplishments and wish him continued
16 success; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
18 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Dr. Frank W. Di Chiara.

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