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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2013

SENATE RESOLUTION

HONORING THE LATE CONGRESSMAN JOHN EDWARD FOGARTY ON THE
CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF HIS BIRTH

Introduced By: Senators P Fogarty, Goodwin, Algieri, Ruggerio, and Felag

Date Introduced: March 27, 2013

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, Many of the leaders of this nation and our great state were men of humble
2 beginnings who possessed the vision, compassion, and drive to advance our collective humanity.
3 John E. Fogarty was just such a man, who in his all-too-short time on this earth, changed our
4 perceptions and saved or enriched the quality of countless lives in our state, across our nation, and
5 around the world; and

6 WHEREAS, Born in the City of Providence on March 23rd of 1913, The Honorable John
7 E. Fogarty was the son of Cora Wheland and John Peter Fogarty. He attended La Salle Academy,
8 but was soon thereafter compelled to help the family's finances as our country sunk into the Great
9 Depression; and

10 WHEREAS, Following in the footsteps of his father and older brother, John Fogarty
11 became an apprentice bricklayer. A natural leader, John's skills in his trade as well as his
12 leadership ability allowed him to rise quickly, and by the end of the 1930s, he became President
13 of the Bricklayer Union No. 1. A year or so later, at the age of 27, he successfully ran for and was
14 elected to the United States House of Representatives in November of 1940; and

15 WHEREAS, The Honorable John E. Fogarty served his Rhode Island constituency for
16 fourteen consecutive terms until January 10th of 1967, when at the start of the 89th Congressional
17 session, he passed away, working at his desk. He was 53 years old; and

18 WHEREAS, With his trademark green bowtie and self-effacing humility, the quiet young
19 Representative from Rhode Island, who has been called the "Greatest Rhode Island Politician of

1 the 20th Century,” rose from an unassuming freshman legislator to become a great statesman, a
2 consensus builder, and immeasurable asset for medical research and our state; and

3 WHEREAS, Always a staunch supporter of the working man, Congressman Fogarty was
4 named to the House Appropriations Committee, and began a new mission, one that would
5 eventually earn him the title of “Patron Saint of Public Health.” He was made Chairman of the
6 Appropriation’s Subcommittee for Labor, Health, Education, and Welfare, a position he held for
7 an unprecedented sixteen years. In that capacity, his knowledge and support for myriad health
8 issues wrought sweeping changes in public policy and funding for activities and advancements in
9 medical research and the field of intellectual and developmental disabilities; and

10 WHEREAS, In 1964, Congressman Fogarty funded and founded The John E. Fogarty
11 Foundation For Persons with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. In addition, he fought
12 for and achieved fourteen increased budget appropriations for the National Institutes of Health.
13 He also helped enact legislation creating the Administration of Aging within the Department of
14 Health, Education, and Welfare, pushed for passage of the Water Pollution Control Act, helped
15 initiate the creation of the National Technical Institute for the Deaf, sponsored legislation for the
16 National Foundation on Arts and Humanities, and closer to home, fought for the funding and
17 construction of the Fox Point Hurricane Barrier; and

18 WHEREAS, Congressman Fogarty possessed an innate diplomacy and wealth of
19 knowledge that encompassed a diverse political spectrum. He often secured the support of both
20 political parties on issues, as demonstrated by his appointment as a Congressional Delegate to the
21 World Health Organization by Presidents Eisenhower, Kennedy, and Johnson; and

22 WHEREAS, A year after his passing, the John E. Fogarty International Center for
23 Advance Study in the Health Sciences at the National Institutes of Health was established and
24 funded. As an ardent believer in preventative medicine and research, the Congressman saw this
25 Center as the fulfillment of one of his greatest aspirations; and

26 WHEREAS, Sir Winston Churchill was quoted as saying, “we make a living by what we
27 get; we make a life by what we give.” By virtue of his many accomplishments, The Honorable
28 John E. Fogarty bequeathed a lofty legacy in the field of health and wholly distinguished himself
29 as person worthy of our state’s utmost admiration and gratitude; now, therefore be it

30 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
31 hereby joins members of The John E. Fogarty Foundation for Persons with Intellectual and
32 Developmental Disabilities, as well as family and friends from across our state, in posthumously
33 recognizing and applauding the accomplishments of The Honorable John E. Fogarty on the 100th
34 Anniversary of his birth; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
2 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the Chairman of The John E. Fogarty
3 Foundation for Persons with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.

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