2013 -- S 0933

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2013

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SENATE RESOLUTION

HONORING CHIEF LIBRARY OFFICER HOWARD BOKSENBAUM ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

Introduced By: Senators Bates, Gallo, Ruggerio, Goodwin, and Satchell

Date Introduced: May 15, 2013

Referred To: Placed on the Senate Consent Calendar

1   WHEREAS, Literacy skills are essential for effective participation in our democracy, in

2   the workplace, and in the community. Lady Bird Johnson once said, "Perhaps no place in any

3   community is so totally democratic as the town library. The only entrance requirement is

4   interest"; and

5   WHEREAS, Howard Boksenbaum earned a degree in linguistics from Washington

6   University in St. Louis and Waseda University in Tokyo. He continued his education, earning a

7   master's degree from the University of Pittsburgh; and

8   WHEREAS, Gaining diversification and becoming well-versed in the many aspects of

9   information technology, Mr. Boksenbaum coordinated the Island Interrelated Library System and

10   worked as the System Coordinator for the Greene County Library System and a cataloger of

11   Japanese materials at the East Asian Library at the University of Pittsburgh before entering state

12   service in 1997; and

13   WHEREAS, Mr. Boksenbaum worked for the Information Technology (IT) Division of

14   OLIS, directing the state's IT program and serving as Chief Information Officer from 2002 to

15   2003; and

16   WHEREAS, While at the Department of State Library Services (DSLS) and OLIS, Mr.

17   Boksenbaum served as the Supervisor of Technical Services, Chief of the Division of Library

18   Planning, Development, and Information Services, and finally as a Library Program Manager.

19   During his time at DSLS, he managed the RI Library Network's transition from five library

1   regions to a single statewide multitype network; and

2   WHEREAS, Approaching what he does as more of a calling than a job, Howard

3   Boksenbaum has overseen enormous changes in information technology. During his tenure in

4   state service, he played a significant role in bringing Rhode Island government online, including

5   the creation of RI.gov and in establishing the statewide interoperable public safety

6   communication network, RISCON. In addition, he created the Ocean State Free-Net and helped

7   create RINet and OSHEAN (Ocean State Higher Education Economic Development and

8   Administrative Network; and

9   WHEREAS, By consistently demonstrating an abiding passion for the value of

10   knowledge and the joy of reading, Howard Boksenbaum has proven to be a true beacon of

11   democracy and a champion of the important role libraries play in our Ocean State; now, therefore

12   be it

13   RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

14   hereby honors Howard Boksenbaum on the occasion of his retirement as Chief Library Officer

15   and thanks him for twenty-five years of devoted service to the people of this state; and be it

16   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 Mr. Howard Boksenbaum.

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