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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2013

SENATE RESOLUTION

CONGRATULATING FATHER BERNARD M. O'REILLY ON HIS RETIREMENT

Introduced By: Senators P Fogarty, and Goodwin

Date Introduced: June 20, 2013

Referred To: Placed on the Senate Consent Calendar

1 WHEREAS, All too often we fail to hear of people who contribute meaningfully to the
2 society in which we live. Father Bernard M. O'Reilly from Saint Patrick's Church in Harrisville is
3 one of the wonderful individuals who makes Rhode Island the special place it is. His kind,
4 encouraging words have led many to a more fulfilling existence; and

5 WHEREAS, One of nine children of the late Myles and Bridget (McDermott) O'Reilly,
6 Father Bernard M. O'Reilly, or Father Bernie, as he is affectionately known, was born in County
7 Cavan, Ireland; and

8 WHEREAS, Bernard O'Reilly focused his undergraduate and graduate work in Ireland on
9 philosophy, theology, and Gaelic football and rugby. Ordained to the holy priesthood in Ireland
10 on June 8, 1969, for the Diocese of Providence, Father Bernie arrived at his first assignment as
11 Assistant Pastor of Assumption Parish in Providence in September of that year; and

12 WHEREAS, Over the years, he served as an associate pastor in a number of other
13 parishes throughout the state, including Saint Edward, Branch Avenue, Saint William, Warwick,
14 Saint Bernard, North Kingstown and Saint Lawrence, North Providence. While serving in parish
15 assignments, Father Bernie simultaneously pursued advanced degrees in English Literature,
16 Psychology and Counseling, Biblical Literature and Theology, and Philosophy; and

17 WHEREAS, Father Bernie became a naturalized citizen of the United States on October
18 8, 1989. In September, 1990, Father O'Reilly was appointed as the Pastor of Saint Patrick's
19 Church in Harrisville, Rhode Island, where he has been ever since, vigorously reaching out to the
20 faithful and those in need of moral and spiritual guidance. A beacon of wisdom, compassion, and

1 stability throughout the years, Father Bernie has labored long and hard to lead his flock toward
2 the light of truth and faith; and

3 WHEREAS, In addition to his pastoral ministry and scholarly pursuits, Father Bernie has
4 taught philosophy and theology at Aquinas College, Salve Regina University, and Providence
5 College. He also offered individual, marriage, and family counseling at the parishes in which he
6 served, as well as through the East Bay Mental Health Clinic and ACI; and

7 WHEREAS, A devout spiritual leader and a man devoted to bettering the lives of all
8 Rhode Islanders, Father Bernard M. O'Reilly has left an indelible mark upon this state and has
9 earned our admiration and respect; now, therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations is
11 hereby pleased and honored to congratulate this extraordinary individual, Father Bernard M.
12 O'Reilly, on his selfless and dedicated service to Saint Patrick's Church and to people in need
13 throughout the Ocean State. We wish him the very best health, happiness, and continued success
14 in his new ventures; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
16 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Father Bernard M. O'Reilly.

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