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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2014

H O U S E R E S O L U T I O N

APPLAUDING THE HEROIC ACTIONS OF EDWARD CATONI AND RONALD JENNINGS

Introduced By: Representatives Slater, Diaz, and Fox

Date Introduced: February 26, 2014

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, Many people go through their lives without any personal contact with a
2 potential life and death situation, without that defining moment that turns an ordinary person into
3 a hero. Edward Catoni and Ronald Jennings faced such a challenge, and in that moment of crisis,
4 without hesitation, they did the extraordinary and saved the life of a twenty-five year old man;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Being homeless, tired, and robbed multiple times, had left the young man
7 with crushing hopelessness. And as his mother tried desperately to catch up with him, while
8 simultaneously dialing 911 for help, the man swung himself over the barrier in Providence's
9 Waterplace Park and dropped towards the waterway; and

10 WHEREAS, Within yards of the potential tragedy, two park rangers, working under the
11 Providence Police, heard the call come in from dispatch. A moment later, the man's mother,
12 Nancy, spotted the two rangers and told them her son's name; and

13 WHEREAS, Mr. Catoni and Mr. Jennings pursued the young man, catching him just as
14 he was about to crash through the ice. Wrapping their arms around his arms, the rangers managed
15 to hold onto the 250-pound man as his feet submerged into the freezing water; and

16 WHEREAS, Reinforcements from the Providence police force arrived on the scene and
17 helped to lift and guide the young man to an ambulance; and

18 WHEREAS, Through the amazingly heroic efforts of Edward Catoni and Ronald
19 Jennings, this young man now has a future that will perhaps be brighter as time goes on; now,
20 therefore be it

1 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
2 Providence Plantations hereby recognizes and honors Park Rangers Edward Catoni and Ronald
3 Jennings for their heroic and clear-headed actions during the most dire of circumstances. These
4 two men are truly an inspiration to us all and we extend best wishes for their future happiness,
5 success, and good health; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
7 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to Mr. Edward Catoni and Mr. Ronald Jennings.

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