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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2015

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

WELCOMING GEORGE MENDONSA TO THE RHODE ISLAND STATE HOUSE

Introduced By: Representatives Ruggiero, Abney, Malik, Reilly, and DeSimone

Date Introduced: March 26, 2015

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, In the words of Tom Brokaw, "When the United States entered World War
2 II, the U.S. government turned to ordinary Americans and asked of them extraordinary service,
3 sacrifice, and heroics..."; and

4 WHEREAS, Members of America's Armed Forces have and continue to face many
5 challenges during times of war and conflict, risking their lives and making great sacrifices in
6 order to protect our precious freedoms and liberties. George Mendonsa of Middletown, was one
7 of the thousands of these brave men and women who served this nation with honor and valor
8 during the Second World War; and

9 WHEREAS, In the line of duty, on foreign soil, our service men and women face
10 unimaginable challenges of endurance and courage, and their return to this country and to their
11 homes and loved ones is a joy almost impossible for those of us who have not lived through their
12 tribulations to imagine; and

13 WHEREAS, On August 14th of 1945, hundreds of returning military personnel were
14 gathered in the middle of New York's Times Square celebrating V-J Day and the end of a war
15 that had taken a great toll on them and this country. In the midst of their celebrations, George
16 Mendonsa, a twenty-two year old Navy sailor, clutched a passing young dental assistant and
17 kissed her in grand Hollywood fashion. Their happiness was palpable and spontaneous, and
18 perfectly captured on film by a nearby photographer, Alfred Eisenstaedt; and

19 WHEREAS, That iconic photo and the overwhelming elation and emotion it captured,
20 has become as all-American as mom's apple pie or a night at the ballpark. It has become a

1 testament to our nation and the people of this nation's resiliency and our love for life and liberty;
2 and now, therefore be it

3 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
4 Providence Plantations hereby welcomes George Mendonsa to the Rhode Island State House and
5 extends our deepest gratitude for his service to this country. We furthermore welcome Lawrence
6 Verria, author of "The Kissing Sailor," and memorialize the 70th Anniversary of Alfred
7 Eisenstaedt's famous World War II photograph; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
9 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to Mr. George Mendonsa and Mr. Lawrence
10 Verria.

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