

**2015 -- H 6262**

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LC002729  
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**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2015**

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

**HONORING AND THANKING THE RHODE ISLAND SPECIAL OLYMPICS SUPER  
PLUNGE TEAM**

Introduced By: Representatives O`Grady, Casey, Azzinaro, and Giarrusso

Date Introduced: May 28, 2015

Referred To: House read and passed

1           WHEREAS, The Super Plunge is an event that increases awareness and attention for the  
2 Torch Run Plunge. Both events are held in support of Special Olympics Rhode Island. The Super  
3 Plunge is quite similar to the Torch Run Plunge except for one key difference, instead of  
4 plunging into bitterly cold water a single time, the five members comprising the "Super Plunge"  
5 team do so once per hour for a 24 hour period; and

6           WHEREAS, From 1:00 pm on Saturday, March 21st, through noon on Sunday, March  
7 22nd, 2015, Elwood Johnson, Jim Cummings, Eric Leclerc, Rick LaBreche and Bo Matthews  
8 plunged every hour, for a total of 24 plunges, at Salty Brine Beach, in frigid water that never got  
9 above 33 degrees and with an air temperature that did not get above 34 degrees. These brave  
10 members of the Super Plunge team raised \$45,100 for the more than 2,800 athletes that make up  
11 Special Olympics Rhode Island. They were the top fundraisers for this event; and

12           WHEREAS, Elwood Johnson, a volunteer for Special Olympics Rhode Island for twenty-  
13 five years, started the "Super Plunge" three years ago. His idea took off and brought much needed  
14 attention and awareness to the needs of Special Olympians. He soon garnered the support of Jim  
15 Cummings, a Special Olympics volunteer for more than twenty-five years, Bo Matthews, a  
16 veteran "plunger" from Blackstone, Massachusetts, and Eric Leclerc and Rick LaBreche, both  
17 fathers of daughters who are Special Olympic athletes. Eric and Rick also both coach their  
18 daughters and other members of the Special Olympics team, the Lincoln North Stars; and

19           WHEREAS, The Special Olympics is a charity that provides athletic competition for

1 children and adults living with intellectual disabilities. It provides a safe haven for these children  
2 and adults where they are accepted and not judged because of their disability. It challenges its  
3 members to be the best they can be and truly changes lives for the better; now, therefore be it

4           RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and  
5 Providence Plantations hereby honors Elwood Johnson, Jim Cummings, Eric Leclerc, Rick  
6 LaBreche and Bo Matthews for their support of Special Olympics Rhode Island as members of  
7 the "Super Plunge" team; 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 Elwood Johnson, Jim Cummings, Eric Leclerc,  
10 Rick LaBreche, and Bo Matthews.

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