

2016 -- H 7350

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2016

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

**PROCLAIMING SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 2016, TO BE "HISTORIC CEMETERY
RESTORATION/AWARENESS DAY" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

Introduced By: Representative Antonio Giarrusso

Date Introduced: January 27, 2016

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, The State of Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission
2 considers our states cemeteries to be "among Rhode Island's most unique and most overlooked
3 historic resources"; and

4 WHEREAS, In 1950, a state cemetery commission was established in order to locate and
5 register historical cemeteries throughout the state. By 1958, the commission had found 1,704
6 cemeteries; and

7 WHEREAS, By 1990, the state cemetery commission, under the direction of John
8 Sterling, and in conjunction with a group comprised of forty volunteers, "set out to record and
9 computerize all of the gravestones in historical cemeteries around the state." As of today, they
10 have found, registered, and recorded the gravestones in 3,046 cemeteries across the state; and

11 WHEREAS, In December of 2013, the East Greenwich Historic Cemetery Advisory
12 Commission was formed in order to restore, rehabilitate, and raise awareness for the need to
13 preserve the ninety-five historic cemeteries located in the area; and

14 WHEREAS, Over the past two years, the organization, with the help of numerous
15 dedicated volunteers, has restored approximately thirty of these cemeteries; and

16 WHEREAS, Rhode Island's historic cemeteries are a rich source of local history and the
17 place of eternal rest for many of our state's original settlers. They deserve our respect, restoration,
18 and maintenance; now, therefore be it

19 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and

1 Providence Plantations hereby thanks and recognizes the East Greenwich Historic Cemetery
2 Advisory Commission on their dedicated efforts to restore and rehabilitate historic cemeteries in
3 our state; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That this House hereby proclaims Saturday, April 16, 2016, to be "Historic
5 Cemetery Restoration/Awareness Day" and urges the citizens of the state to observe this day with
6 appropriate ceremonies and activities that raise awareness for the cultural, architectural, and
7 archaeological importance, and the need to preserve and restore the historic cemeteries in our
8 state; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
10 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Mr. Jason Beaumier, East Greenwich Historic
11 Cemetery Advisory Commission.

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