

2016 -- H 8043

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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

HONORING STEPHEN J. WESTERMAN ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

Introduced By: Representatives Keable, Ruggiero, Melo, Trillo, and Newberry

Date Introduced: April 06, 2016

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, Since May 2nd of 1982, the patients at the Eleanor Slater Hospital
2 Zambarano Unit have been the beneficiaries of the compassion, patience, and abiding dedication
3 to excellence that Steve Westerman has always brought to his work at the hospital's Burrillville
4 campus; and

5 WHEREAS, Mr. Westerman is a graduate of Sacramento State University in California
6 and for many years, has been the Therapeutic Recreation Director at the Burrillville hospital
7 which provides care for about 120 long-term patients suffering from chronic illness, behavioral
8 issues and brain and spinal cord injuries; and

9 WHEREAS, The history of therapeutic recreation began with the ancient Greeks and
10 Egyptians, but did not become an acknowledged vocation until the 1940s. In the late 1950s, it
11 was considered a social activity and in the 1970s, it was known as hospital recreation; and

12 WHEREAS, In 1984, the American Therapeutic Recreation Association (ATRA) was
13 created for the purpose of systematizing therapeutic recreation for clinical practice. Therapeutic
14 recreation then became a profession that required training at a university and certification by the
15 National Council on Therapeutic Recreation; and

16 WHEREAS, During his tenure at Zambarano, Steve Westerman has helped to restore the
17 physical health, as well as the social and emotional stability and well-being of hundreds of
18 patients. He helped envision Jim Benedict's idea of patients getting up and dressed in street
19 clothes every day, and helped with the organization of Patients for Progress, serving as its
20 Treasurer since its inception. He is a creative and hands-on supervisor who coordinates a panoply

1 of events including Music Festivals, holiday parties, and trips to Springfield Fair; and

2 WHEREAS, Beloved by his patients and their families, and respected by his peers, Steve
3 was honored with the HARI Award, which is presented by the Hospital Association of Rhode
4 Island, in order to recognize exemplary performance and dedication in the field of health care.
5 He also received the Granger Award from the Chepachet Grange, naming him the citizen of the
6 year; and

7 WHEREAS, Steve has been coming to the State House for Zambarano Day from the very
8 first year. His retirement will be an enormous loss to all and he will be greatly missed; now,
9 therefore be it

10 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
11 Providence Plantations hereby recognizes and sincerely thanks Stephen J. Westerman for more
12 than three decades of dedicated service at the Eleanor Slater Hospital Zambarano Unit in
13 Burrillville. We furthermore wish him continued happiness, success, and fulfillment in all his
14 future endeavors; 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 Mr. Stephen J. Westerman.

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