

**2016 -- S 2940**

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**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2016**

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**SENATE RESOLUTION**

**CELEBRATING RHODE ISLAND INDEPENDENCE DAY ON MAY 4, 2016**

Introduced By: Senators Pichardo, Gallo, Paiva Weed, Ruggerio, and Felag

Date Introduced: May 04, 2016

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1           WHEREAS, Rhode Island colonists were considered to be "the most radical religious  
2   dissenters from the Puritans of the Massachusetts Bay Colony," and as our new state and indeed  
3   our new nation, independent of the British crown, began to take form, great leaders emerged to  
4   lead the way; and

5           WHEREAS, Relations between Rhode Island colonists and their British rulers  
6   deteriorated rapidly after the 1772 incident in which Rhode Island colonists, angered by  
7   continued British attempts to impose taxes in ways that the colonists perceived to be unfair,  
8   boarded and burned the British customs ship, Gaspee, which had run aground near Warwick,  
9   while patrolling the coastal waters in search of local smugglers; and

10          WHEREAS, One of our state's most renowned colonial leaders was Nathanael Greene.  
11   He was born on Forge Farm at Potowomut in the township of Warwick, Rhode Island, but later  
12   moved to Coventry to take charge of the family-owned forge. He began his military career as a  
13   militia private, the lowest rank possible, but was eventually elevated to commander of the  
14   colonial militia. He led troops in the Continental Army at Boston and New York, then fought in  
15   battles at Trenton, Brandywine, and Germantown; and

16          WHEREAS, Nathanael Greene played an additional role in shaping our state. He served  
17   as a deputy of the Rhode Island Assembly. Thomas Jefferson once wrote that Nathanael Greene  
18   was "second to no one in enterprise, in resource, in sound judgment, promptitude of decision, and  
19   every other military talent"; and

20          WHEREAS, Our state's founders formed, protected, and represented the first colony to

1 renounce allegiance to King George III; and

2 WHEREAS, The celebration of Rhode Island Independence Day on May 4<sup>th</sup> is a "tribute  
3 to the memory of the members of our General Assembly, who, on the fourth day of May, 1776, in  
4 the State House at Providence, passed an act renouncing allegiance of the colony to the British  
5 crown and by the provisions of that act declared Rhode Island sovereign and independent, the  
6 first official act of its kind by any of the thirteen American colonies"; now, therefore be it

7 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
8 hereby joins citizens from across our Ocean State in celebrating Rhode Island Independence Day  
9 on May 4<sup>th</sup> of 2016; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
11 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the Nathanael Greene Homestead Association,  
12 Inc.

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