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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017

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

CONGRATULATING THE NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS ON WINNING SUPER BOWL LI

Introduced By: Representatives Mattiello, Shekarchi, Edwards, Morgan, and Kennedy

Date Introduced: February 07, 2017

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, In a game for the ages, one that will be remembered for decades, the New
2 England Patriots made the greatest comeback in Super Bowl history, storming back from a
3 twenty-five point deficit in the third quarter to stun the Atlanta Falcons and the world, and win
4 their fifth Super Bowl in franchise history by the score of 34 to 28, in the first Super Bowl to ever
5 go to overtime; and

6 WHEREAS, The 2016-2017 New England Patriots displayed a unique ability all season
7 to overcome adversity. They went 3-1 in their first four games, despite not having the services of
8 Tom Brady. They also lost Rob Gronkowski, the best tight end in the NFL, to injury halfway
9 through the season, yet they still compiled a 14-2 record, the best in the NFL, and steamrolled
10 through the AFC playoffs, thrashing the Houston Texans and the Pittsburgh Steelers on their way
11 to setting an NFL record with their ninth Super Bowl appearance; and

12 WHEREAS, The Patriots once again found themselves facing adversity, digging
13 themselves into a deep hole in the third quarter, losing 28 to 3. Yet, just as things were looking
14 grim, and millions of folks were contemplating turning off their television sets, the Patriots
15 mounted a furious rally. Tom Brady led the way, picking apart the Falcons defense with pinpoint
16 passes to an array of receivers, from James White, Julian Edelman and Danny Amendola to Chris
17 Hogan, Malcolm Mitchell and Martellus Bennett in a dizzying and fierce comeback that had the
18 Falcons defense on its heels and confused for most of the second half and overtime; and

19 WHEREAS, Also aiding the comeback cause was the Patriots defense, the best in the
20 NFL all season, which stiffened in the second half and shut down the Falcons high-powered

1 offense when it mattered most, thanks in part to the outstanding play of team linebacker and team
2 leader Dont'a Hightower, who created a key turnover when he stripped Falcons Quarterback Ryan
3 of the ball, and then later in the game made a vital sack of Ryan, which knocked the Falcons out
4 of field goal range. The Patriots' victory would also have been impossible without the cool and
5 calm leadership provided by Head Coach Belichick, who kept the team focused when things
6 looked bleak, and for his knack for calling the right plays at the right time, a vital skill that was
7 best exhibited when the Patriots were able to convert two crucial fourth quarter two-point
8 conversions; and

9 WHEREAS, The New England Patriots set a number of Super Bowl records in Super
10 Bowl LI. Tom Brady set Super Bowl game records for most completions in a game and most
11 passing yards in a game. He also set a Super Bowl record for most MVPs in a Super Bowl with
12 four, and both he and Belichick, the two architects of the Patriots dynasty, set Super Bowl
13 records for most appearances by a Head Coach and Quarterback, with seven each, and most wins
14 by a Head Coach and Quarterback with five each. Additionally, Wide Receiver James White set a
15 Super Bowl record for most receptions in a game with fourteen; now, therefore be it

16 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
17 Providence Plantations hereby congratulates the New England Patriots on winning Super Bowl
18 LI. Their thrilling comeback victory and refusal to give up despite facing seemingly
19 insurmountable odds enthralled an entire nation and much of the world, and will serve as an
20 inspiration to millions for years to come; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
22 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Mr. Robert Kraft, Owner, New England
23 Patriots.

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