

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017

SENATE RESOLUTION

CELEBRATING GENERAL GEORGE WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY

Introduced By: Senator Dennis L. Algieri

Date Introduced: February 15, 2017

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1           WHEREAS, When George Washington was a Colonel with the Virginia Regiment, he  
2 and Captains Mercer and Bishop, along with two bonded servants and a packhorse proceeded  
3 through the Rhode Island colony in February of 1756. The time of the crossing encompassed the  
4 Colonel's twenty-fourth birthday on February 22nd of 1756; and

5           WHEREAS, Colonel Washington's assignment was to report upon "Braddock's Defeat"  
6 to Sir William Shirley, Governor-General of the American Colonies, at his mansion in  
7 Dorchester, south east of Boston; and

8           WHEREAS, General Sir Edward Braddock had commanded his force of nearly 1,300  
9 British and Colonial forces into an ambush along a forested river, the Monongahela, in the  
10 Colony of Pennsylvania, almost bordering on the Ohio Territory. The French had swept down,  
11 with their Indian allies, as the French and Indian War against the British colonists was raging; and

12           WHEREAS, Washington Irving wrote that "Braddock's shattered army continued its  
13 flight after it had crossed the Monongahela, a wretched wreck of the brilliant battle force that had  
14 recently gleamed along its banks, confident of victory"; and

15           WHEREAS, In his book, "Washington: A Life", Ron Chernow said of George  
16 Washington, "With exceptional pluck and cool-headedness, young George Washington was soon  
17 riding all over the battlefield ... Because of his height, he presented a gigantic target on  
18 horseback and when two horses were shot from under him, he dusted himself off and mounted the  
19 horses of dead riders... When Braddock was felled... only Washington was left to attend to him";  
20 and

1           WHEREAS, Governor Dinwiddie, Colonial Governor of Virginia, dispatched  
2 Washington to Boston to elucidate Governor General Sir William Shirley of the disaster that  
3 General Braddock had wrought in February of 1756, seven months after the debacle; and

4           WHEREAS, Washington's party proceeded through Rhode Island on the Boston Post  
5 Road to inform General Shirley, whose own son was a victim of the recent defeat, and to speak  
6 about the American colonists' losses and the further threats from the forces of the French; and

7           WHEREAS, The Party left no record of a stop in Westerly at the Babcock-Smith House.  
8 Dr. Babcock had been a frequent correspondent with Benjamin Franklin, but it cannot be  
9 ascertained if they changed horses at Governor Samuel Ward's Farm in Weekapaug, although no  
10 other public horse was available up the Post Road except at Sugar Loaf Road; and

11           WHEREAS, The South Kingstown charter of 1723, with its dominant "Sugar Loaf Hill"  
12 can be taken as a sojourn-site for the five men; now, therefore be it

13           RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and providence Plantations  
14 hereby celebrates George Washington's Birthday; 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 Helen Farrell Allen, Principal, Tempus Fugit.

=====  
LC001385  
=====