

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017

SENATE RESOLUTION

CONGRATULATING DOMENIC KAFFENBERGER OF WESTERN HILLS MIDDLE SCHOOL IN CRANSTON, RHODE ISLAND, ON BEING NAMED AN AWARD WINNER IN THE 2017 ANNUAL STUDENT ESSAY CONTEST SPONSORED BY THE NATIONAL WWII MUSEUM

Introduced By: Senators Lombardi, Miller, Gallo, Metts, and Satchell

Date Introduced: March 30, 2017

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, The National World War II Museum, in New Orleans, Louisiana, was
2 founded in 2000, and was designated as America's official National World War II Museum by the
3 United States Congress in 2003; and

4 WHEREAS, The National World War II Museum sponsors an annual essay contest for
5 middle school and high school students across the United States, with approximately 1,000
6 participants. Each year has a different theme. This year's theme, in memory Elie Wiesel, a
7 survivor of Auschwitz who passed away in 2016, was for entrants to write an essay in response to
8 a quote by Mr. Wiesel, coming from the point of view of a young person coming of age in the
9 twenty-first century; and

10 WHEREAS, When Mr. Hank Maine, an English Language Arts teacher at Western Hills
11 Middle School in Cranston, offered his students the option of doing an essay in place of one of
12 the required readings, one of his eighth-grade students, Domenic Kaffenberger, took him up on
13 his offer and proceeded to be named an award winner for his essay about indifference, a topic the
14 Nobel Prize winning author Elie Wiesel wrote about in his book, "Night"; and

15 WHEREAS, The exact quote from Mr. Wiesel's book that Domenic wrote about was
16 "The opposite of love is not hate, it's indifference. The opposite of beauty is not ugliness, it's
17 indifference. The opposite of faith is not heresy, it's indifference. And the opposite of life is not
18 death, but indifference between life and death." In his essay, Domenic connected events of the

1 present with events of the past and wrote about how indifference to the plight of others is
2 primarily what ails the world today and he went on to write that "The only way for evil to
3 conquer good is to do nothing." Hopefully, with young people like Domenic in our midst, evil
4 and darkness will not conquer the good again; and

5 WHEREAS, Domenic Kaffenberger is a caring, bright, and intellectually curious young
6 man. According to his teacher, "Domenic thinks at a very high level and we talk about that
7 higher-level thinking a lot in class. Our group discussions often go in unbelievable directions and
8 I always want them to bring their discussions to that next level. Domenic certainly does that";
9 now, therefore be it

10 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
11 hereby congratulates Domenic Kaffenberger for being named an award winner in the 2017
12 Annual Student Essay Contest sponsored by the National WWII Museum; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
14 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Domenic Kaffenberger.

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