

2018 -- H 8051

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2018

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

**RECOGNIZING AND HONORING CHRISTOPHER DEGRAVE ON BEING NAMED FIRE
CHIEF OF THE DUNN'S CORNERS FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Introduced By: Representatives Filippi, Kennedy, Azzinaro, Morin, and Messier

Date Introduced: April 04, 2018

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, As all firefighters know and carry with them into each and every fire
2 situation they encounter, all fires can become erratic, unpredictable, and immensely dangerous.
3 Yet they work diligently and courageously to protect and preserve their neighbors and
4 communities, regardless of the perils or hazards they potentially face, and their accomplishments
5 are eminently worthy of our recognition; and

6 WHEREAS, Christopher DeGrave graduated from the University of Rhode Island in
7 2006, and officially joined the South Kingstown Fire Department in 2005. Through dedication
8 and innate aptitude, he was named Deputy Chief in 2013, and also served as the department's
9 training officer; and

10 WHEREAS, In addition, Mr. DeGrave worked for Providence Emergency Management
11 from 2006 through 2008, and subsequently served as the State of Rhode Island's ADA inspector
12 and the assistant state ADA coordinator. He also served as a member of the Governor's
13 Commission on Disabilities; and

14 WHEREAS, With an impressive resume including a decade-and-a-half serving as a
15 volunteer firefighter, and administrative and leadership experience at both the municipal and state
16 levels, Deputy Chief DeGrave was named Fire Chief of the Dunn's Corners Fire Department in
17 February of 2018; and

18 WHEREAS, The Dunn's Corners Fire Department had its origins, after the start of World
19 War II, with the creation of the Civilian Defense Organization. At the time, the United States

1 Government gave the Town of Westerly six firefighting trailers, one of which was placed at the
2 Dunn's Corners Filling Station. In July of 1942, the first meeting of the Dunn's Corners Fire
3 Department was held and in September of that year, they were given a 1936 Ford truck with a
4 500 GPM front-mounted pump by the Westerly Town Council; and

5 WHEREAS, Today, the vast majority of firefighters in the Dunn's Corners Fire
6 Department are still unpaid volunteers "who give of themselves and their time for training and
7 responding to an ever-increasing number of calls relative to fire suppression or prevention"; and

8 WHEREAS, Chief DeGrave has taken on "the challenge of maintaining the high quality
9 of service already in place while simultaneously enhancing public interaction and encouraging
10 community involvement in both department operations and activities"; and

11 WHEREAS, The citizenry of Westerly and Charlestown lead far safer and more secure
12 lives due to the dedicated career of Chief Christopher DeGrave, and he is truly deserving of our
13 gratitude and acknowledgement; now, therefore be it

14 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
15 Providence Plantations hereby recognizes, honors and thanks Chief Christopher DeGrave on
16 being named Fire Chief of the Dunn's Corners Fire Department. We wish him good health,
17 fulfillment, and continued success in all his future endeavors; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
19 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Chief Christopher DeGrave, Dunn's Corners
20 Fire Department.

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