

2018 -- H 8062

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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

JOYOUSLY CELEBRATING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WESTERLY SUN

Introduced By: Representatives Kennedy, Azzinaro, Shekarchi, Morgan, and Price

Date Introduced: April 05, 2018

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, The Westerly Sun is a distinguished and award-winning newspaper
2 covering the communities of Charlestown, Hopkinton, Richmond, South Kingstown, and
3 Westerly, Rhode Island, and Groton, North Stonington, and Stonington, Connecticut; and

4 WHEREAS, The Westerly Sun was founded on August 7, 1893 and was guided by its
5 first publisher, the Honorable George H. Utter, who went on to serve as the Secretary of State,
6 Lieutenant Governor and Governor of Rhode Island. He was also elected to the Rhode Island
7 Senate and the Rhode Island House of Representatives and served as Speaker in 1889. Mr. Utter
8 was a Seventh-Day Baptist who observed the Sabbath from sunset Friday to sunrise Sunday, and
9 that was why The Westerly Sun, at that time, was the only newspaper in the nation that printed its
10 Sunday newspaper in the afternoon; and

11 WHEREAS, On the fateful morning of December 7, 1941, World War II came to the
12 United States when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor in Hawaii. On the East Coast, it was in the
13 afternoon, and that's how The Westerly Sun became the first newspaper in the United States to
14 print and report the attack on Pearl Harbor; and

15 WHEREAS, Word of the attack had reached President Francis Delano Roosevelt at 1:40
16 p.m. Eastern Standard Time and the news was announced from the White House at 2:22 p.m.
17 Word of the attack came to The Westerly Sun newsroom when Katherine Utter, the wife of then-
18 editor and publisher Ben Utter, heard about the event on the radio and immediately called the
19 newsroom. City Editor C. Starr Baker then called the Associated Press to gather as much
20 information as he could and composed the headline that announced the attack, the first such

1 newspaper headline in the United States, thereby making history for The Westerly Sun and the
2 State of Rhode Island; and

3 WHEREAS, Throughout its distinguished 125 year history, The Westerly Sun has
4 enlightened and educated the local community while always adhering to the strictest journalistic
5 principles. Hopefully the communities of Southern Rhode Island and Eastern Connecticut will
6 continue to be informed and enriched by The Westerly Sun for another 125 years; now, therefore
7 be it

8 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
9 Providence Plantations hereby joyously celebrates the 125th Anniversary of The Westerly Sun and
10 thanks them for the high-quality journalism they provide to the Southern Rhode Island
11 community on a daily basis; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
13 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Mr. David Pare, Senior Vice President and
14 Chief Operating Officer of The Westerly Sun.

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