

2018 -- H 8238

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LC005547
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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

HONORING AND MEMORIALIZING THE “RHODE ISLAND NINE”, THE NINE RHODE ISLAND MARINES, SERGEANT TIMOTHY GIBLIN, OF NORTH PROVIDENCE, CORPORAL RICK R. CRUDALE, OF WARWICK, CORPORAL EDWARD S. IACOVINO, JR., OF WARWICK, CORPORAL DAVID C. MASSA, OF WARREN, CORPORAL THOMAS A. SHIPP, OF WOONSOCKET, CORPORAL EDWARD SOARES, JR., OF TIVERTON, CORPORAL JAMES F. SILVIA, OF MIDDLETOWN, CORPORAL STEPHEN E. SPENCER, OF PORTSMOUTH, AND LANCE CORPORAL THOMAS A. JULIAN, OF PORTSMOUTH, WHO TRAGICALLY PERISHED IN SERVICE TO OUR NATION ON OCTOBER 23, 1983, IN A TERRORIST ATTACK IN BEIRUT, LEBANON

Introduced By: Representatives Mattiello, Azzinaro, McLaughlin, Abney, and Vella-Wilkinson

Date Introduced: May 24, 2018

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, During the Lebanese Civil War, various Marine Amphibious Units were
2 sent by then President Reagan to Beirut in an attempt to keep the peace in that volatile region.
3 The 24th Marine Amphibious Unit of the 1st Battalion, 8th Marines, served two tours of duty in
4 Beirut, Lebanon, first from October through February of 1983, and later from May through
5 November of 1983; and

6 WHEREAS, On the tragic day of October 23, 1983, a yellow Mercedes stake-bed truck
7 carrying compressed gas-enhanced explosives, crashed into the Marine barracks with the driver
8 detonating a suicide bomb, killing 241 United States service personnel, including 220 United
9 States Marines, 18 sailors, and three soldiers. FBI forensics experts later calculated that this bomb
10 carried the equivalent of 12,000 pounds of TNT, the largest non-nuclear explosion to date. A
11 second suicide bomb attack killed 58 French Peacekeepers and six civilians; and

12 WHEREAS, The terrorist attack in Beirut, Lebanon, resulted in the largest group of
13 casualties the United States Marines have suffered since the Battle of Iwo Jima during World
14 War II. Of the 241 United States personnel that perished in the attack, Rhode Island suffered the
15 most losses with nine Marines killed. It was the worst day for Rhode Island service personnel
16 since the United States Civil War. Many experts consider this attack to be some of the first

1 casualties in the Global War on Terror; and

2 WHEREAS, Each and every year, on October 23rd, an annual Beirut Memorial Service is
3 held in the upstairs meeting room of the Portsmouth Historical Society to honor and memorialize
4 the Rhode Island Nine and the additional 232 United States personnel who were killed in Beirut
5 while in service to our nation. On these solemn occasions, we remember the heroic sacrifice these
6 brave young men made, we comfort their families, and we recall their lives before this tragedy
7 occurred; and

8 WHEREAS, The young Marines who perished on that fateful day were full of promise
9 and potential. One Marine, Corporal Rick Crudale, a Field Radio Operator, had been on the cover
10 of Time Magazine just twenty days before the fateful attack. He left behind his wife, Heidi
11 Petrozzi. Sergeant Timothy Giblin, an Administrative Clerk in the Marines, left behind his wife,
12 Valerie, and his daughter, Tiffany. His brother, Donald, was also stationed in Beirut at this time
13 and accompanied his brother's body back to the United States. Corporal David Massa was
14 planning on attending college after he had fulfilled his military obligations. Corporal Edward
15 Soares, Jr., was a member of the ROTC in high school and was planning on marrying Lisa
16 Jusseume in early 1984. Corporal James Silvia played football and ran track in high school. He
17 was a cook in the Marines and was planning on attending culinary school in the future. Corporal
18 Stephen Spencer, brother-in-law of Corporal Silvia, was a native of Florida who had moved to
19 Rhode Island after marrying Lynn Silvia. He had been shipped to Beirut the day after he was
20 married. Lance Corporal Thomas Julian was an Intelligence specialist in the Marines. He was a
21 life Scout in the Boy Scouts. Corporal Thomas Shipp served the Marines as a Mortarman. All
22 these special young men were so full of life and their loss has left an unfillable void in the hearts
23 of their families and all who knew and loved them. May we never forget the ultimate sacrifice
24 they made on behalf of our nation and may we never forget the immense grief their loved ones
25 have lived with since the tragic day of October 23, 1983; now, therefore be it

26 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
27 honors and memorializes the "Rhode Island Nine", the nine Marines from Rhode Island who
28 perished in the terror attack in Beirut, Lebanon, on October 23, 1983; and be it further

29 RESOLVED, That this House recognizes Mr. Michael Harris, our friend and colleague,
30 and the Assistant Recorder for the Rhode Island House of Representatives, who served our nation
31 with bravery as a Lance Corporal in the United States Marine Corps. Mr. Harris was in the
32 barracks that was attacked on the tragic day of October 23, 1983, and has never forgotten the
33 fellow Marines who perished in this terror attack. Mr. Harris has diligently kept a memorial book
34 of the "Rhode Island Nine" and this information is vital to the remembrance of this tragedy; and

1 be it further

2 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
3 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Rhode Island Adjutant General, Major
4 General Christopher P. Callahan, and to the United States Marine Corps Commandant, General
5 Robert Neller.

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