

2018 -- S 2998

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2018

SENATE RESOLUTION

HONORING SENATOR DANIEL DA PONTE FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE OF THE
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Senators Ruggerio, McCaffrey, Goodwin, Algieri, and Conley

Date Introduced: June 22, 2018

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, On November 3rd of 1998, the Honorable Daniel Da Ponte was elected to
2 the Rhode Island Senate, representing portions of the City of East Providence in what is now
3 District 14. Only 20 years old at the time, he was the youngest person ever elected to the Senate
4 to that point. By earning the trust and confidence of his constituents, he has been re-elected to and
5 held his seat for the past two decades; and

6 WHEREAS, The Honorable Daniel Da Ponte is the husband of Marcia Da Ponte, and
7 together they have two children, Antonio and Sofia. He makes his home in the City of East
8 Providence and is a graduate of La Salle Academy. Continuing his education, he attained his
9 Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the University of Rhode Island and a Master's
10 degree in Personal Financial Planning from Kansas State University. He is the President and
11 Chief Compliance Officer of Axis Advisors; and

12 WHEREAS, Senator Da Ponte's astute fiscal skills have made him an invaluable member
13 of the Senate Committee on Finance. He is also a member of the Senate Committee on Rules, and
14 Government Ethics & Oversight; and

15 WHEREAS, Senator Da Ponte served as Chairman of the Senate Committee on Finance
16 from 2009 to 2017. A champion of responsible budgeting, he advanced legislation that required
17 transparency from companies receiving tax incentives, and regular reports regarding the public
18 benefits of those incentives. Senator Da Ponte championed the historic income tax reform that
19 reduced the top marginal income tax rate from 9.9 percent to 5.99 percent, among other tax

1 reforms that improved the state's business climate; and

2 WHEREAS, During his tenure, Senator Da Ponte has worked diligently on myriad issues,
3 including increasing wages to private direct care workers, legislation prohibiting individuals
4 served with protective orders relating to domestic assault from shutting off or disrupting utility
5 services, legislation providing children with disabilities the opportunity to continue educational
6 programs through to the conclusion of the school or program's academic year, even if the student
7 reaches the age of 21 during the school year, and numerous additional focuses; and

8 WHEREAS, Senator Da Ponte's public service has extended well beyond the State
9 House. He serves the community as a member of the Holy Ghost Beneficial Brotherhood of
10 Rhode Island, The Holy Ghost Brotherhood Mariense, the Portuguese American Leadership
11 Council and St. Francis Xavier Parish. Senator Da Ponte annually organizes and hosts a Day of
12 Portugal Celebration at the State House, and he successfully worked to keep the local Providence
13 office of the Portuguese consulate open when its closure was being considered in 2006; and

14 WHEREAS, Despite his numerous impressive accomplishments over the course of his
15 public service, his triumphant achievement came just this year, with enactment of legislation to
16 create a "Day of Portugal" license plate; and

17 WHEREAS, Senator Da Ponte serves as a model of dedicated and conscientious civic
18 service, and has earned the respect and the gratitude of the citizens in his community and the
19 people of this state for making Rhode Island a better place to live and grow; now, therefore be it

20 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
21 hereby honors Senator Daniel Da Ponte for his service to the people of this state and wishes him
22 good health, fulfillment, and continued success in all his future endeavors; and be it further

23 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
24 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the Honorable Daniel Da Ponte.

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