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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019

SENATE RESOLUTION

HONORING WARWICK POLICE CHIEF STEPHEN MCCARTNEY ON HIS RETIREMENT
AND THANKING HIM FOR HIS FORTY-FIVE YEARS OF EXEMPLARY PUBLIC
SERVICE

Introduced By: Senators McCaffrey, Lynch Prata, McKenney, Lombardi, and Algieri

Date Introduced: March 13, 2019

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, Chief McCartney has devoted most of his life to public service. He had a
2 distinguished thirty-year Marine Corps career, retiring with the rank of Colonel. He was
3 commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in 1969 and served for twenty-two years in the infantry,
4 beginning with his service as a Platoon Commander with the 1st Marine Division in Vietnam in
5 1970 and 1971. During his distinguished military career, he held every infantry position from the
6 platoon level up to the regimental level; and

7 WHEREAS, After transitioning to the United States Marine Corps Reserve, Colonel
8 McCartney served as the Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion, 25th Marines, who were
9 assigned operationally to the 1st Marine Division and took part in combat operations in Saudi
10 Arabia and Kuwait in Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm in 1990 and 1991. Later, in 1997 and
11 1998, he volunteered to serve as an adjunct faculty member of the Naval Justice School and
12 served two tours in Rwanda, where he assisted the United States Embassy and the Rwandan
13 Government in teaching and training Rwandan law enforcement officials on how to investigate
14 homicides after nearly one million people were killed in the Rwandan Genocide; and

15 WHEREAS, Colonel McCartney received numerous decorations during his exemplary
16 military career in recognition of his meritorious service to our nation including the Navy-Marine
17 Corps Medal for Heroism, the Navy Commendation & Achievement Medals, and the Combat
18 Action Ribbon with two gold stars. In 1999, he was awarded the Rhode Island Star by the State of
19 Rhode Island for his honorable service to our nation; and

1 WHEREAS, In 1973, he joined the Providence Police Department and for twenty-six
2 years he steadily rose through the ranks thanks to his hard work, attention to detail, and ability to
3 lead those under his command. He served as Director of the City's first mounted unit, as the
4 Director of Training, and as Commanding Officer of the Neighborhood Response Unit. He served
5 for eleven years with the Investigative Division, rising to the rank of Captain and Commanding
6 Officer before he was further promoted to the rank of Major and placed in charge of the entire
7 department, where he was responsible for more than 150 investigations, including the Operation
8 Checkmate investigation of the Latin Kings street gang; and

9 WHEREAS, In 1999, Stephen McCartney was selected to be the Warwick Police Chief.
10 He took over a Department that had recently gone through hard times and Chief McCartney was
11 exactly the right person needed at that time. Immediately, the police officers under his command
12 as well as the elected officials in Warwick and the entire community were impressed by his
13 honesty and integrity as he set out to fix the problems and make everyone proud of the Warwick
14 Police Department. Due to recessions, he frequently faced budget shortfalls and a shortage of
15 officers, yet was still able to run an effective department thanks to the skillful way he reorganized
16 and redeployed personnel and his ability to find cost-effective ways to maximize the resources he
17 did have available to him; and

18 WHEREAS, During his tenure, the Warwick Police Department continuously earned
19 esteemed CALEA re-accreditation. Earlier this month, WalletHub named Warwick the fifth safest
20 community in the nation overall and also ranked Warwick the fifth safest community in the
21 nation for the fewest assaults per capita. Thanks to his diligence and excellence, today Warwick
22 is a very safe city in which to live, visit, and operate a business; and

23 WHEREAS, Chief McCartney received numerous awards in recognition of his sterling
24 police career including being recognized for outstanding achievement by the United States
25 Attorney for Rhode Island, the Rhode Island Office of Attorney General, the Federal Bureau of
26 Investigation, the United States Secret Service and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.
27 Most importantly, he is held in the highest esteem by his local law enforcement colleagues.
28 Colonel Ann C. Assumpico, former Superintendent of the Rhode Island State Police, said of
29 Chief McCartney, "I trust him. I'd go through any type of war, any firefight, for him. He's the real
30 deal. He has great humility and that is a great trait." Providence Police Chief Hugh T. Clements,
31 Jr., who was a recruit when Chief McCartney ran the Providence Police Academy, and later
32 worked for him as a patrolman and a detective, said about Chief McCartney, "I have the utmost
33 respect for him as a police leader and a man. He's known statewide and regionally as a polished
34 leader and a man of integrity, and I consider him a mentor and a friend"; and

1 WHEREAS, Other honors awarded to Chief McCartney include the 2009 Public Service
2 Award from the Rhode Island Branch of the American Society for Industrial Security
3 Professionals, the Neil J. Houston, Jr, Memorial Award for Excellence in Criminal Justice, and
4 the 2010 Kent County Chamber of Commerce Service Award. In 2012, he was inducted into the
5 Rhode Island Criminal Justice Hall of Fame. He served as the President of the Rhode Island
6 Police Chief's Association in 2008, and has long been active with the Rhode Island Police Chief's
7 Association, the Warwick Rotary Club, and numerous other community groups and associations;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Chief McCartney will be sorely missed by the citizens of Warwick. His
10 honesty, abiding integrity, immense leadership abilities, and deep compassion for others were
11 admired by all who knew him; now, therefore be it

12 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
13 hereby honors Warwick Police Chief Stephen McCartney for his forty-five years of exemplary
14 public service. We wish him a most happy retirement with his family, and continued success in
15 all his future endeavors; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
17 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Warwick Police Chief, Stephen McCartney.

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