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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019

SENATE RESOLUTION

CONGRATULATING JULIA DEGIOVANNI ON ATTAINING HER BACHELOR'S
DEGREE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Senators Morgan, Rogers, Algieri, de la Cruz, and Paolino

Date Introduced: May 30, 2019

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, There is an old Japanese Proverb that states, "Fall seven times and stand up
2 eight" and it could not be a more relevant or fitting description of the life and determination of
3 Julia DeGiovanni; and

4 WHEREAS, On December 9th of 2011, while a freshman student at the University of
5 Rhode Island, Julia collapsed. She was rushed to health services, and later to Rhode Island
6 Hospital, where she was diagnosed with congenital arterial malformation and operated on for a
7 ruptured aneurysm that had developed undetected; and

8 WHEREAS, Through Christmas and the New Year, with family and friends constantly
9 by her side, Julia spent two weeks in an induced coma after having part of her skull removed, and
10 another three weeks at the hospital before being transferred to Spaulding Cambridge to begin her
11 extensive rehabilitation; and

12 WHEREAS, Unable to talk, vision impaired, and with major mobility obstacles to
13 overcome, Julia developed a heterotopic ossification, which is an abnormal bone growth, that
14 once again required her to endure surgery and an excruciatingly painful recovery process. Shortly
15 after, her doctors found another arterial malformation, requiring yet another surgery and more
16 time in intensive care at Rhode Island Hospital; and

17 WHEREAS, In time Julia was transferred to Spaulding Hospital to restart her
18 rehabilitation, but shortly thereafter, a head-bleed required a rush visit to Massachusetts General
19 Hospital and more surgery. On May 9th of 2012, Julia finally went home to the welcoming arms

1 of her family and a hero's welcome from her entire community; and

2 WHEREAS, After eight years of surgeries, intensive therapy and rehabilitation,
3 continued physical, occupational and speech therapy, and blessed with the total love and
4 unending-support of her parents, Kelly and Michael, her sister, Alyzza, her language and reading
5 specialist Tammy Lyons, communication lecturer Joanne Mundorf, countless physicians, hospital
6 staff and ambulance services, her ever-faithful service dog, Willis, as well as the entire
7 community of her hometown of Hope Valley, Julia will receive her Bachelor's degree in
8 Communication Studies with a minor in Sustainability at the University of Rhode Island's 2019
9 commencement ceremony; now, therefore be it

10 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
11 hereby congratulates Julia DeGiovanni on attaining her Bachelor's Degree from the University of
12 Rhode Island, and applauds her inspirational journey in achieving her goals. We moreover wish
13 her good health and fulfillment, and extend our sincerest wishes for her continued success, and
14 for all the very best that life has to offer; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
16 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Ms. Julia DeGiovanni.

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