

2020 -- H 7456

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2020

HOUSE RESOLUTION

POSTHUMOUSLY HONORING FIRST SERGEANT PETER ANDREW MCKENNA ON
HAVING THE RHODE ISLAND CHAPTER #004 OF THE IRISH VETERANS
ASSOCIATION NAMED IN HIS HONOR

Introduced By: Representatives Abney, Donovan, Mattiello, Azzinaro, and Shekarchi

Date Introduced: February 05, 2020

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, The late Rhode Island hero Andrew McKenna was the descendant of mid-
2 19th century Irish immigrants from Clogher, County Tyrone, Ireland, and was raised in Bristol.
3 After graduating from Mt. Hope High School, he enlisted in the United States Army on July 24,
4 1998, and for nearly eighteen years, he served our nation with bravery, honor and distinction
5 before he perished on the battlefield; and

6 WHEREAS, Mr. McKenna completed five combat tours and had risen to the rank of First
7 Sergeant. In 2015, he was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 7th Special Forces Group, at Camp
8 Integrity in Afghanistan where he was killed in action on August 15, 2015, in Kabul, Afghanistan
9 while deployed on his 6th combat tour. His heroic actions, while under enemy attack, protected
10 and saved more than 300 people, and in recognition, First Sergeant McKenna was posthumously
11 awarded the Purple Heart and the Silver Star, our Nation's third highest military honor; and

12 WHEREAS, First Sergeant McKenna had previously been awarded a Bronze Star with
13 Combat Distinguishing Device 'V' for Valor for his heroic service during his first combat tour of
14 duty in 2004, in Afghanistan. He also was awarded four Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters during his
15 distinguished military career; and

16 WHEREAS, A local group of Irish-American veterans and their friends have established
17 a Rhode Island based Chapter of Irish Veterans to honor and celebrate Rhode Island veterans of
18 Irish heritage. In a posthumous tribute in recognition of Andrew McKenna's valor, heroism and
19 bravery in service to our nation, the chapter will be named the "First Sergeant P. Andrew

1 McKenna Chapter #004 of the Irish Veterans Association"; now, therefore be it

2 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
3 Providence Plantations hereby posthumously honors First Sergeant Peter Andrew McKenna on
4 having the Rhode Island Chapter of the Irish Veterans Association named "First Sergeant P.
5 Andrew McKenna Chapter #004 of the Irish Veterans Association" in recognition of his heroic
6 service to our country; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
8 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to Robert McKenna and Family, and the First
9 Sergeant P. Andrew McKenna Chapter #004 of the Irish Veterans Association.

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