

2020 -- H 8108

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LC005405
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2020

HOUSE RESOLUTION

CONGRATULATING JOHNSTON POLICE CHIEF RICHARD TAMBURINI ON HIS
RETIREMENT ON AUGUST 31, 2020, AFTER MORE THAN FIFTY YEARS OF
DISTINGUISHED AND DEVOTED LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICE TO THE STATE OF
RHODE ISLAND AND THE CITIZENS OF JOHNSTON

Introduced By: Representatives Fellela, Ucci, Mattiello, Mendez, and Hull

Date Introduced: July 16, 2020

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, Chief Richard Tamburini was born in the Federal Hill Neighborhood of
2 Providence. He served our nation with distinction in the United States Army, serving with the
3 72nd Signal Battalion, where he rose to the rank of Specialist 4th Class and received top-secret
4 clearance in cryptology. His specialty was electronic counter measures for jamming electronic
5 signals; and

6 WHEREAS, Chief Tamburini began his exemplary law enforcement career in 1966 as a
7 second-shift Patrolman with the Providence Police Department. His tireless work ethic and
8 attention to detail was quickly noted by his superiors and he began to rapidly rise through the
9 ranks. He was first promoted to Sergeant and served as the Night Commander of the Detective
10 Division, where he was responsible for the investigation of crimes, finding fugitives from justice,
11 the arrest of suspects, recovering stolen property, preparing court testimony for prosecution, and
12 coordinating investigative efforts at the division level; and

13 WHEREAS, Chief Tamburini was later promoted to the rank of Lieutenant and assigned
14 to the Providence Police Department's Detective Bureau where he formed a legendary
15 investigative team with Detective Vincent Vespia. Chief Tamburini assigned and monitored the
16 case investigations of the detectives under his command and made Rhode Island law enforcement
17 history when he became the first police officer outside of the Rhode Island State Police to be
18 granted the right to conduct wiretapping. He planned and developed surveillance operations that

1 investigated and brought charges against organized crime figures and those involved in the illegal
2 trade of narcotics. Together with Detective Vespia, their investigative team severely hampered
3 the activities of both organized crime and narcotic trafficking; and

4 WHEREAS, In 1988, Chief Tamburini was promoted to the rank of Deputy Police Chief
5 of the Providence Police Department, where he was responsible for more than 500 police officers
6 and civilian personnel. His duties were numerous and varied, from managing personnel and
7 overseeing budgets, to conducting community and press relations, to making command decisions
8 regarding a broad range of Providence Police Department policy positions and protocols; and

9 WHEREAS, Since 1995, Chief Tamburini has served as the highly respected and beloved
10 Police Chief of the Town of Johnston. A leader by example, Chief Tamburini brought with him
11 new and innovative ideas that have improved the training and performance of the Johnston Police
12 Department, as well as closer relations with the community and superb fiscal management. Chief
13 Tamburini instituted bicycle patrols, the Citizens Police Academy, the award-winning Johnston
14 Explorers Program, and the very popular “Walk With Cops” program. Under his direction,
15 guidance and leadership, the Johnston Police Department has become widely recognized and
16 admired as being one of the very best police departments in the State of Rhode Island and the
17 wider New England community; and

18 WHEREAS, Chief Tamburini is the loving husband of Marie and the son of the late
19 Josephine and Joseph Tamburini. He is the loving father of Lisa and Joey, daughter-in-law Erika
20 and son-in-law Frank, and the devoted grandfather of Jessica, Angelica, Andrew, and Cecilia;
21 now, therefore be it

22 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
23 Providence Plantations hereby congratulates Johnston Police Chief Richard Tamburini on his
24 retirement on August 31, 2020, after more than fifty years of distinguished and devoted law
25 enforcement service to the State of Rhode Island and the citizens of Johnston; and be it further

26 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
27 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Johnston Police Chief Richard Tamburini.

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