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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2020

HOUSE RESOLUTION

CONGRATULATING CAPTAIN MARK TURNER, UNITED STATES NAVY (RETIRED),
ON BEING NAMED THE SPEAKER FOR THE PATRIOTIC EXERCISES FOR THE 2020
BRISTOL FOURTH OF JULY PARADE, THE OLDEST ANNUAL 4TH OF JULY
CELEBRATION IN AMERICA

Introduced By: Representatives Speakman, Donovan, Shekarchi, and Mattiello

Date Introduced: July 16, 2020

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, Captain Mark Turner, son of a World War II veteran, was born in
2 Greenwich, Connecticut, and was commissioned after graduation from Marquette ROTC. Captain
3 Turner served our nation with honor and distinction for thirty years as a Naval Officer in the
4 Maritime Patrol Community. Captain Turner held multiple leadership positions including serving
5 as the Commanding Officer and Commodore of Airwing Eleven; and

6 WHEREAS, Captain Turner attended the U.S. Naval War College in Newport in 2010
7 and earned a Master's degree in National Security and Strategic Studies. He went on to serve as
8 the Director of the Naval Staff College. He has received numerous awards in recognition of his
9 distinguished career including the James Forrestal Award for Excellence in Strategic Planning,
10 and Rhode Island Society of the Order of the Founders and Patriots Award for Excellence. His
11 military awards include three Legions of Merit, the Defense Service Medal, two Meritorious
12 Service Medals, and four Navy Commendation Medals; and

13 WHEREAS, After retiring from the Naval Staff College, Captain Turner took a position
14 as a contractor with Netsimco, where he continued to provide support to the mission of the Naval
15 War College. He also began volunteering his time in support of Rogers High School, where he
16 co-created an International Studies and Leadership program teaching students about global issues.
17 He later married Colleen Kiernan, a teacher he worked with at Rogers High School; and

18 WHEREAS, In addition to his wife Colleen, Captain Turner is blessed with three

1 stepchildren, Gabrielle, a nurse at Rhode Island Hospital, Catherine, a recent graduate of the
2 University of Virginia, and John, a 2020 graduate of Rogers High School. As a member of VFW
3 Post 406, Captain Turner worked on the Committee to bring the Vietnam Memorial Moving Wall
4 to Newport in 2019. His numerous speaking engagements have included speaking at the Pearl
5 Harbor Commemoration, the 9/11 Commemoration, (He was stationed at the Pentagon during the
6 attack), the Newport Memorial Day Remembrance, and he was the Keynote Speaker for the
7 Rogers High School online graduation; now, therefore be it

8 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
9 congratulates Captain Mark Turner, United States Navy (Retired), on being named the Speaker
10 for the Patriotic Exercises for the 2020 Bristol Fourth of July Parade; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
12 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Captain Mark Turner, United States Navy
13 (Retired).

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