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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2020

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SENATE RESOLUTION

CONGRATULATING RETIRED UNITED STATES ARMY FIRST SERGEANT DORA VASQUEZ-HELLNER ON BEING NAMED THE RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS "FEMALE VETERAN OF THE YEAR"

Introduced By: Senators Morgan, de la Cruz, Lynch Prata, Coyne, and Gallo

Date Introduced: March 05, 2020

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1           WHEREAS, Dora Vasquez-Hellner has resided in Ashaway since 2001. She holds a  
2 Bachelor of Science degree in Liberal Arts from Excelsior College of Albany, New York, and a  
3 Master of Arts degree in Hispanic Studies from the University of Rhode Island. She is married to  
4 William Hellner and together they have one child, Mathias; and

5           WHEREAS, Sergeant Vasquez-Hellner is retired from the United States Army who  
6 served our nation with honor and distinction for twenty-three years. She is a graduate of  
7 numerous advanced military courses including, the United States Army Airborne Course, the  
8 SERE-Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape Course, and the Individual Terrorism Awareness  
9 Course. During Operation Just Cause Panama, she was the Non-Commissioned Officer in charge  
10 of screening operations that handled over 2,000 Panamanian Defense Force soldiers; and

11           WHEREAS, Since her retirement from the United States Army, Sergeant Vasquez-  
12 Hellner started a second career as a teacher. She currently teaches Spanish at Westerly High  
13 School, where she works tirelessly to enrich and make a difference in the lives of the students in  
14 her classroom; and

15           WHEREAS, Although retired from active military service, Sergeant Vasquez-Hellner  
16 remains quite active within the military veterans community. She is a member of Team Red,  
17 White, and Blue in Groton, Connecticut, whose mission is to enrich the lives of America's  
18 Veterans by connecting them to their community through physical and social activity, and serves  
19 as the Secretary of New England Military Women Across the Nation Unit # 158 whose purpose is

1 to encourage patriotism, loyalty and devotion to God, country and family. Sergeant Vasquez-  
2 Hellner also helped to coordinate the first Rhode Island Rally for Women Warriors at the  
3 Providence VA Medical Center; and

4 WHEREAS, Sergeant Vasquez-Hellner had the high honor of being elected the State  
5 Junior Commander of the Department of Rhode Island Veterans of Foreign Wars on June 2,  
6 2019, at the 100th State Convention in Warwick. She is a life member of the Amancio-Falcone-  
7 Gaccione VFW Post 8955, and had the honor of participating in the first Rhode Island All Female  
8 Honor Flight to our Nation’s Capital in April of 2019; now, therefore be it

9 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
10 hereby congratulates Retired United States Army First Sergeant Dora Vasquez-Hellner on being  
11 named the Rhode Island Department of Veteran Affairs “Female Veteran of the Year”; and be it  
12 further

13 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
14 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Sergeant Dora Vasquez-Hellner.

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