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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

SENATE RESOLUTION

HONORING MR. GEORGE KENT FOR SIXTY-FIVE YEARS OF DEVOTED AND
FAITHFUL SERVICE TO CHRIST CHURCH IN WESTERLY, RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Senator Dennis L. Algieri

Date Introduced: April 26, 2021

Referred To: Placed on the Senate Consent Calendar

1 WHEREAS, George "Bunky" Kent, a talented and celebrated organist and choirmaster, is
2 an accomplished musician and artist recognized throughout Westerly and Rhode Island for his
3 service to Christ Church and for the indelible mark he has made within the music and arts scene;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Mr. Kent earned degrees from the University of Rhode Island, the New
6 England Conservatory of Music, and received a Doctor of Divinity degree (honoris causa) from
7 the General Theological Seminary in New York City. He studied with noted musicians Donald
8 Willing, George Faxon, and Roger Voisin, founded and directed the Chorus of Westerly, and had
9 a distinguished career as a member of the University of Rhode Island Music School faculty,
10 where he still serves as a professor of music emeritus and teaches music classes as an adjunct
11 professor; and

12 WHEREAS, Mr. Kent also recorded albums with celebrated trumpet virtuoso Edward
13 Tarr, toured and lectured throughout the United States, Canada, Europe and Japan, founded a
14 music camp in New Hampshire, and earned numerous awards and honors, including the
15 prestigious Rhode Island Governor's Arts Award, the Distinguished Alumni Award from the New
16 England Conservatory, and the Encore Award for Individual Achievement from the Arts and
17 Business Council of Rhode Island; and

18 WHEREAS, Mr. Kent is a beloved and celebrated figure within the Westerly community
19 and the Christ Church Congregation. Ryan Saunders, Executive Director of the Chorus of

1 Westerly, stated that when one was a member of Mr. Kent's Choir, "you also got lessons in
2 musical history and the liturgy. He looks at music and he gets it, then he teaches it. You don't get
3 that link very often." Mr. Kent is a man of deep faith who has spent his life serving the Lord and
4 making a positive difference in the life of countless people. The Reverend Sunil Chandy, the
5 Christ Church rector, said of Mr. Kent, "He may be our music director, but he's really more like a
6 priest. God is working through George.....He is a beautiful example of Christian witness"; now,
7 therefore be it

8 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island hereby honors Mr. George
9 Kent for his sixty-five years of devoted and faithful service to Christ Church in Westerly, Rhode
10 Island; 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 Mr. George Kent.

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