

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

S E N A T E R E S O L U T I O N

**RECOGNIZING CLIFFORD R. MONTIERO ON BEING HONORED AS THE "HISTORY
MAKER RECIPIENT" BY THE RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY FOR A
LIFETIME OF COMMITMENT AND DEDICATION TO SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC
JUSTICE AND EQUALITY**

Introduced By: Senator Dominick J. Ruggiero

Date Introduced: May 25, 2021

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, Since he was a young man, Clifford Montiero has been working tirelessly to
2 advance civil rights, and increase access, opportunity and equality for generations of Rhode
3 Islanders; and

4 WHEREAS, At the age of twelve, Mr. Montiero first visited Rhode Island and witnessed
5 his first "colored only" sign in a restaurant window. He is the son of a Cape Verdean immigrant,
6 and the first member of his family to graduate from high school and college, earning his degree
7 from the University of Rhode Island, which he attended on a track scholarship; and

8 WHEREAS, Locally and nation-wide, Mr. Montiero has been at the forefront of myriad
9 major civil rights causes. From marching with the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in the Selma-
10 to-Montgomery march, to organizing a sleep-in at the Rhode Island State House, to registering
11 Southern sharecroppers to vote and originating the slogan "Think Big", he has been a champion
12 for looking beyond the status quo; and

13 WHEREAS, Mr. Montiero was the first black police officer in the City of Providence,
14 and is a lifelong member and for more than a decade, President of the Providence chapter of the
15 NAACP; and

16 WHEREAS, In 2019, Mr. Montiero was honored with the National Association of
17 Secretaries of State (NASS) Medallion Award for championing civic engagement and voter
18 participation in Rhode Island. In 2018, he was awarded the Rev. Leon Howard Sullivan Award

1 by the Rhode Island Black Heritage Society and the Opportunities Industrialization Center (OIC)
2 of Rhode Island, and in 2015, he was honored with the Legends and Legacy award for his
3 lifelong accomplishments and exceptional advocacy on behalf of the Cape Verdean Community
4 and the community at large; and

5 WHEREAS, Clifford Montiero has spent much of his life showing others the importance
6 of perseverance, compassion, integrity, and fairness and he is eminently worthy of our utmost
7 admiration and gratitude; now, therefore be it

8 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island hereby recognizes Clifford
9 Montiero on being honored as the "History Maker Recipient" by the Rhode Island Historical
10 Society and sincerely thanks him for his commitment and dedication to social and economic
11 justice and equality, and wishes him continued success and good health; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
13 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Mr. Clifford R. Montiero.

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