

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2023

HOUSE RESOLUTION

HONORING AND CONGRATULATING BILLY A. LEIVA ON ACHIEVING HIS UNITED STATES CITIZENSHIP AND FOR HIS DEDICATION AND TREMENDOUS WORK ETHIC AND ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

Introduced By: Representatives Shekarchi, Newberry, Blazejewski, Place, Chippendale, Fenton-Fung, Bennett, Edwards, Kennedy, and Tanzi

Date Introduced: January 31, 2023

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, At just three days old, Billy Leiva arrived in the United States from
2 Guatemala undocumented, with his parents, Esther and Robert Leiva, who risked all in order to
3 give their family a better life. For decades, Billy lived in the United States under undocumented
4 status and sought to legalize his position, while denied the basic privileges and rights of those
5 born in this country, including the ability to work legally, obtain a driver's license, or pursue
6 higher education; and

7 WHEREAS, With his parents and two siblings, Robert Leiva, Jr., a Support Center
8 Representative at Harvard University Employees Credit Union, and Jamie Leiva, the Director of
9 Creative Donor Engagement at Harvard Medical School, Billy and his family have overcome
10 many challenges to achieve the American Dream; and

11 WHEREAS, Billy's path for more than three decades has been teeming with both
12 educational and personal achievements. He became the first President of his elementary school,
13 was a recipient of the President's Education Award Program given by President Bill Clinton for
14 Outstanding Academic Achievement, and made the National Honor Society during his years at
15 Johnston Senior High School; and

16 WHEREAS, In addition, Billy is a director of Hope Generations, a nonprofit organization
17 that assists people in bettering their lives through faith, was a member of the 2022 Sigma II Core
18 Program on leadership development, is a Volar team member for the Boys & Girls Club, a youth
19 career mentoring program, and participated in the Eastern Leadership Academy Program

1 sponsored by the Council of State Governments in Philadelphia in August of 2022; and

2 WHEREAS, From cleaning bathrooms to working as a youth mentor, digital marketer,
3 film-maker, designer, motivational speaker, and aircraft pilot, Billy Leiva has and will most
4 assuredly always be an avid learner, striving to grow and face new challenges; and

5 WHEREAS, Currently, Billy is a TV technician with Capitol TV for the General
6 Assembly, but there is little doubt that his passion for public policy and law will lead to new
7 horizons in his future; and

8 WHEREAS, The journey towards becoming a United State citizen is an arduous and
9 complicated process that can take years of uncertainty, determination, perseverance and hope.
10 Billy's story has now culminated in his attaining citizenship on October 21, 2022, at the US
11 Citizenship & Immigration Services Building in Johnston, and his achievement is well-deserved
12 and worthy of recognition and praise; now, therefore be it

13 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
14 congratulates Billy Leiva on obtaining his United States Citizenship and honors and commends
15 him for all he has already accomplished and all that we know he will continue to achieve; and be
16 it further

17 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
18 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Mr. Billy A. Leiva.

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