

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2023

HOUSE RESOLUTION

CONGRATULATING THE LEGENDARY VIOLA DAVIS ON BECOMING AN EGOT
(EMMY, GRAMMY, OSCAR, AND TONY) AWARDS WINNER

Introduced By: Representatives Voas, Giraldo, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Potter,
Chippendale, Kennedy, Tanzi, Cotter, and Fenton-Fung

Date Introduced: February 09, 2023

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, On Sunday, Feb 5, 2023, at the 65th Annual Grammy Awards, Central Falls
2 native, Viola Davis, became the ninth winner of color to achieve the prestigious EGOT recipient
3 status, having earned an Emmy, Grammy, Oscar, and Tony Award; and

4 WHEREAS, The timing of Ms. Davis' achievement coincides with our country's
5 celebration of Black History Month and truly inspires and irrefutably illustrates the monumental
6 achievements and contributions of people of color both historically and today; and

7 WHEREAS, Viola Davis was born on her grandmother's farm, the Singleton Plantation,
8 in South Carolina, the second youngest of six children. Soon after, she moved with her parents
9 and two siblings to Central Falls, often living in deplorable conditions and condemned
10 apartments; and

11 WHEREAS, The road to her success began when Ms. Davis attended Central Falls High
12 School where her love for acting and the stage took root and after majoring in theater at Rhode
13 Island College, she enrolled at the Young People's School for the Performing Arts where her
14 talent was soon discovered and led to her admittance into the Julliard School and her first
15 professional stage role in 1992; and

16 WHEREAS, From these humble beginnings, Ms. Davis has become a legendary and
17 resoundingly beloved American actor and producer and undoubtedly one of the greatest actors of
18 the 21st century, initially debuting her talents on Broadway in Seven Guitars followed by myriad
19 critically acclaimed performances including her role in King Hedley II for which she received her

1 first Tony Award; and

2 WHEREAS, In 2015, Ms. Davis won an Emmy Award for her role on How to Get Away
3 with Murder, and in 2017, earned an Oscar for Best Supporting Actress in Fences for which she
4 also won a Golden Globe Award. She completed the EGOT with her Grammy win for Best Audio
5 Book, Narration & Storytelling Recording of Finding Me in 2023; and

6 WHEREAS, In addition, Ms. Davis is the sole African-American to achieve the Triple
7 Crown of Acting for her work in film, television, and theater, and has earned a panoply of
8 additional honors over the course of her career including induction into the Academy of Motion
9 Picture Arts and Sciences, numerous Screen Actors Guild Awards, a Golden Globe Award, a
10 BAFTA Award, Cannes Film Festival Women in Motion Award, CinemaCon Award, four
11 Critics' Choice Movie Awards, as well as myriad nominations in all these Awards' categories and
12 more throughout her career; and

13 WHEREAS, Viola Davis never forgot her humble Rhode Island beginnings and has often
14 donated funds to her hometown Central Falls for its library, High School, and meal programs, as
15 well as many arts and educational organizations throughout the State, and was honored by the
16 Rhode Island Tourism Division with the "Making a Difference" Award. She is a warm and caring
17 person, a legendary actor and producer, and a true inspiration to us all; now, therefore be it

18 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
19 honors and congratulates Viola Davis on becoming an EGOT Award winner and extends our
20 heartfelt best wishes for her good health, continued success and much happiness; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
22 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Ms. Viola Davis.

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