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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

SENATE RESOLUTION

JOYOUSLY CELEBRATING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF NBC 10 WJAR ON JULY 10,
2024

Introduced By: Senators Ruggerio, Raptakis, Felag, Euer, Picard, Burke, Bell,
Sosnowski, LaMountain, and Lawson

Date Introduced: June 10, 2024

Referred To: Placed on the Senate Consent Calendar

1 WHEREAS, For 75 years, NBC 10 WJAR has been a leading television station, serving
2 Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts everyday with accurate news, consumer and
3 weather information, and quality entertainment. They remain a vital source of breaking news and
4 information, and a revered news and media television station, serving its southern New England
5 audience at all times of the day and night on all platforms; and

6 WHEREAS, WJAR-TV was the first television station in Rhode Island, broadcasting its
7 initial television show on July 10, 1949, beginning as Channel 11, but transitioning to Channel 10
8 in 1952. The very first program aired by WJAR-TV was a baseball game between the Boston Red
9 Sox and the Philadelphia Athletics. WJAR originally broadcast from the fifth floor of the
10 landmark Outlet Department Store building in downtown Providence, and later moved to the
11 Broadcast House on Dorrance Street, and subsequently to Kenney Drive in Cranston; and

12 WHEREAS, WJAR-TV has always been an innovator within the media broadcast
13 industry. Some of its many important innovations and milestones since 1949, include producing
14 some of the first film processed and broadcast by a local tv station within the same day, airing
15 one of the first live video broadcasts from a helicopter in 1955, and having the first television
16 meteorologist in Rhode Island, John Ghiorse. WJAR-TV's first ever color telecast occurred in
17 October of 1963, when it broadcast a tour of the Rhode Island State House with Governor John
18 Chafee; and

19 WHEREAS, WJAR's reputation for innovation and always going the extra mile to serve

1 their audience was never more evident than when their microwave truck was able to provide a
2 live vital link between Governor. J. Joseph Garrahy at the State House and the people of Rhode
3 Island during the Blizzard of 1978. WJAR also had the great honor of broadcasting a live Town
4 Hall special in 1994 with President Bill Clinton, who appeared in the Cranston studios; and

5 WHEREAS, Legendary WJAR-TV personnel have included the late news announcer and
6 weather forecaster, Art Lake, news anchor, Doug White, and investigative reporter, Jim Taricani,
7 all of whom left a rich legacy of community service and quality journalism. Current WJAR-TV
8 staff members include news veterans with as many as fifty years of experience, who work
9 alongside and mentor young journalists. One of these talented staff members includes broadcast
10 engineer, Larry Silva, who will be retiring on July 11, after more than 57 years of stellar service
11 in the Rhode Island broadcast industry; and

12 WHEREAS, Over the past 75 years, WJAR-TV has earned many deserved awards in
13 recognition of its journalistic excellence including national and regional Edward R. Murrow
14 Awards, Emmy Awards and nominations, and Associated Press Awards and nominations. In
15 1954, WJAR TV received the prestigious Peabody Award for its coverage of Hurricane Carol;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, To this day, NBC 10 WJAR remains an industry leader thanks to its focus
18 on providing accurate news and information at all times. They tirelessly strive to provide needed
19 information immediately, accurately, and responsibly, from breaking weather or news
20 information to important community updates. WJAR has a reputation for staying on their stories
21 as they consistently follow developments and update new information as it occurs on important
22 stories to their audience. Their investigations have exposed corruption, held the powerful
23 accountable, and separated fact from fiction during election season. This is why it remains a most
24 trusted source of news and information for so many people living in Rhode Island and
25 Southeastern Massachusetts; now, therefore be it

26 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island hereby joyously celebrates the
27 75th Anniversary of NBC 10 WJAR on July 10, 2024, and wishes them many more years of
28 providing quality journalism and entertainment to the people of Rhode Island and Southeastern
29 New England; and be it further

30 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
31 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to NBC 10 WJAR News Director Scott Isaacs.

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