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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2011

SENATE RESOLUTION

**HONORING THE DISTINGUISHED MUSICAL CAREER AND SERVICE TO RHODE
ISLAND BY MR. DAVID GREELY**

Introduced By: Senator Roger Picard

Date Introduced: March 02, 2011

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, At seventeen years of age, David Greely picked up his first fiddle and joined
2 the punk bluegrass band, Cornbread, which was subsequently invited to play the New Orleans
3 Jazz and Heritage Festival for six years in a row; and

4 WHEREAS, In 1988, David Greely met Steve Riley and formed the Mamou Playboys,
5 then signed a recording contract with the prestigious Boston-based record label, Rounder
6 Records, and proceeded to play the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival every year since; and

7 WHEREAS, The Mamou Playboys entertained Rhode Islanders at the Cajun and
8 Bluegrass Festival in Escoheag, going on to play many venues over the years in Rhode Island,
9 including Friday night dances at the Holy Ghost Brotherhood Hall, the Big Easy Bash Festival in
10 Escoheag, the Cajun and Zydeco Mardi Gras Ball at Rhodes on the Pawtuxet, the Towers in
11 Narragansett, and the Newport Folk Festival; and

12 WHEREAS, David has performed in Rhode Island with the Mamou Playboys and a
13 variety of side projects well over seventy-five times; and

14 WHEREAS, David, whose love of Cajun music runs deep in his soul, was awarded a
15 Louisiana Folklife Apprentice Grant to study with Cajun Master Fiddler and cultural
16 Ambassador, Dewey Balfa; and

17 WHEREAS, David received the Artist Fellowship in Folklife, Louisiana Division of the
18 Arts, for Lifetime Achievement; and

19 WHEREAS, David won the Cajun French Music Association award for fiddle player of

1 the year and songwriter of the year for the song “Katherine” in 1996; and

2 WHEREAS, David’s song, “Marie Mouri” was recorded by Linda Ronstadt and Ann
3 Savoy on the Grammy-nominated recording, *Adieu False Heart*; and

4 WHEREAS, The Mamou Playboys have been nominated for two Grammy Awards in
5 The Best Traditional Folk Album category: one Grammy nomination was for *Trace of Time* and
6 the second was for *Bon Rêve*; and

7 WHEREAS, David has been instrumental in helping to raise funds at the Mardi Gras Ball
8 for VSA Arts of Rhode Island and stimulating tourism by interpreting traditional Cajun, Blues,
9 Gospel, and Bluegrass music, composing new melodies, and entertaining audiences at venues
10 throughout Rhode Island; now therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations is
12 hereby pleased and honored to congratulate David Greely on his exemplary music career and
13 service to Rhode Island; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to
15 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Mr. David Greely.

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