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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019

SENATE RESOLUTION

MEMORIALIZING AND COMMEMORATING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE D-DAY LANDINGS IN NORMANDY, FRANCE, AND THE EVENTUAL LIBERATION OF EUROPE

Introduced By: Senator Walter S. Felag

Date Introduced: June 06, 2019

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, On June 6, 1944, 156,000 courageous young American, British and
2 Canadian troops began the liberation of Europe when they landed on the beaches in Normandy,
3 France, that now live forever in history. They were code-named Gold Beach, Juno Beach, Sword
4 Beach, Utah Beach, and most famously, Omaha Beach, where American soldiers faced a
5 cauldron of withering enemy fire, deep water, choppy waves, and suffered enormous casualties
6 before eventually prevailing and breaching General Rommel's "Atlantic Wall"; and

7 WHEREAS, Additionally, during the night before the fateful invasion, thousands of
8 heroic airborne troops, including the vaunted American 82nd and 101st Airborne Divisions, were
9 dropped from the sky behind enemy lines across the Normandy region in order to secure vital
10 objectives. They too suffered casualties on the day we now call "The Longest Day"; and

11 WHEREAS, Before the Allied Invasion of France, Europe had suffered through the
12 darkest four-year period in its history. Hitler's Nazi armies had conquered and enslaved Norway,
13 Belgium, France, Poland, Greece, the Netherlands, Denmark, Czechoslovakia and the former
14 Yugoslavia. At the same time, the Nazis were ruthlessly murdering six million Jews and countless
15 others in the death camps they ran throughout Europe; and

16 WHEREAS, The D-Day Normandy landing was also the largest amphibious assault in
17 world history, and included 5,000 ships and 11,000 aircraft sorties flown by allied pilots. It was
18 simply the most important military operation in world history and if it had failed, unimaginable
19 consequences would have followed. The war in Europe would certainly have lasted much longer

1 than its ending in May of 1945, even more people would have perished in the death camps, and
2 democracy might have permanently died in Europe either through a forced negotiated truce with
3 the Nazis or to a conquering Russian Army, instead of the liberating forces of the American,
4 British and Canadian armies that freed Western Europe in 1945; and

5 WHEREAS, On the fateful day, thousands of brave American and Allied soldiers, most
6 of them surely terrified of what might have awaited them, risked everything to free Europe from
7 the clutches of the evil Nazi regime, and to preserve and protect all the freedoms we cherish
8 today. Thanks to the efforts of these men, many of whom perished, today Europe enjoys the kind
9 of freedom and prosperity that was unimaginable 75 years ago, and America remains the most
10 free nation on Earth; now, therefore be it

11 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
12 hereby memorializes and commemorates the 75th Anniversary of the D-Day landings on
13 Normandy, on June 6, 2019. May we never forget the sacrifices made by so many courageous
14 young American and Allied soldiers in support of the noble causes of freedom and liberty; and be
15 it further

16 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
17 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the Rhode Island Adjutant General, Major
18 General Christopher P. Callahan.

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