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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2004

H O U S E R E S O L U T I O N

**HONORING RICHARD LEWIS CLARKSON, PH.D. FOR 30 YEARS OF DEDICATED
CAREER SERVICE TO THE DEAF COMMUNITY IN RHODE ISLAND**

Introduced By: Representative Gordon D. Fox

Date Introduced: May 05, 2004

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, Richard L. Clarkson, Ph.D. was born on September 11, 1949, in Des
2 Moines, Iowa. He was the second of five sons born to Lew and Margaret Clarkson. Rick
3 enjoyed a Norman Rockwell family lifestyle, with dad running a business and mom with her
4 hands full at home with the five boys; and

5 WHEREAS, Upon graduating summa cum laude from the public high school in Johnston,
6 Iowa, Rick continued his education at Emmaus Bible College then in Chicago. In his junior year
7 of college, he transferred to Barrington College in Rhode Island, where he met his lovely wife of
8 thirty-one years, Ann Marie Almeida; and

9 WHEREAS, Shortly after Rick and Ann Marie married, she began teaching at the Rhode
10 Island School for the Deaf. By the following year Rick joined her on staff as a counselor, thus
11 beginning a pattern of dedication to, and involvement with, the deaf community; and

12 WHEREAS, Rick and Ann Marie settled in Providence and raised their four sons, Bryan
13 Richard, Bradley Lewis, Benjamin and Bret Edward nicknamed "Bo." Rick received his doctoral
14 degree from Brown University and pursued a diversity of research including: the effects of otitis
15 media on newborns; Auditory Assessment of Infants; Speech Perception; and Perception of
16 Intonation in Deaf Children. He assisted in the development of a statewide newborn hearing
17 screening program; and

18 WHEREAS, As the boys grew, so did Rick's participation in community activities. He
19 enthusiastically served on the Board of Directors, both managing and being division director of

1 the Fox Point East Side Little League; was a coach with the Jewish Community Center's Youth
2 Basketball program and Providence Country Day's middler baseball team; and took over
3 ownership and the running of the Cliff Stevenson Youth Soccer League; and

4 WHEREAS, Rick's active involvement with the Rhode Island School for the Deaf grew
5 exponentially as he conducted individual and group counseling sessions, established a Big
6 Brother/Big Sister program, as well as a summer camp, all to benefit and enrich the lives of deaf
7 children and adults, and their families; and

8 WHEREAS, Rick is a remarkable gentleman whose myriad of talents and contributions
9 to the betterment of the deaf community is astounding. One has to wonder where he has found
10 enough hours in the day to be and do all that he has so admirable accomplished; now, therefore be
11 it

12 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations is
13 hereby pleased to join family and friends in honoring Richard L. Clarkson for thirty years of
14 devoted service to Rhode Island's deaf students and community. We wish him happiness and
15 fulfillment for many years to come; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he is hereby authorized and directed to
17 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Richard L. Clarkson.

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