

**2010 -- H 8207**

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**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2010**

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**H O U S E   R E S O L U T I O N**

**SUPPORTING EFFORTS TO BRING THE RETIRED AIRCRAFT CARRIER USS JOHN F.  
KENNEDY TO AQUIDNECK ISLAND, RHODE ISLAND**

Introduced By: Representatives A Rice, Martin, Gallison, Edwards, and Loughlin

Date Introduced: June 01, 2010

Referred To: House read and passed

1           WHEREAS, For twelve years, the USS Saratoga Museum Foundation valiantly  
2 endeavored to bring the USS Saratoga to Rhode Island. Recently, the Navy notified the  
3 organization that the ship has been removed from donation status, thus closing the door on this  
4 long held aspiration. But in the wise words of Alexander Graham Bell, “When one door closes,  
5 another opens” ; and

6           WHEREAS, The retired aircraft carrier USS John F. Kennedy was made available for  
7 donation last November, and with this unexpected news came renewed hope for an “exciting new  
8 initiative”; and

9           WHEREAS, Many of the concerns, costs, and potential roadblocks posed by bringing  
10 the USS Saratoga to Rhode Island do not exist with the installation of the USS Kennedy, and  
11 many positive economic and strategic advantages have emerged; and

12           WHEREAS, President Kennedy, for whom the carrier was dedicated, had close and  
13 longstanding ties with the Ocean State. He was married in our great state, his family summered  
14 along our coast, and his wartime training occurred here. Locating his namesake in our waters is  
15 not only historically appropriate, it is sagacious; and

16           WHEREAS, In addition, the Rhode Island Aviation Hall of Fame intends to bring the  
17 USS Kennedy to Newport County, as opposed to Quonset, thereby eliminating dredging costs and  
18 concerns, and the USS Kennedy has been “maintained in a fully functional reserve status,”  
19 thereby reducing or eliminating the costs associated with refurbishing and relocation efforts; and

1           WHEREAS, Myriad organizations, including local officials, business leaders, and  
2 developers, as well as the Newport and Bristol County Convention and Visitors Bureau, have  
3 pledged support for the project; and

4           WHEREAS, The project has many economic positives for Rhode Island, including the  
5 creation of new jobs, a boost for tourism, and the facility's possible use for job training and as a  
6 disaster relief asset. Conversely, there is no requirement for "any direct funding from the state or  
7 the local host community"; now, therefore be it

8           RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and  
9 Providence Plantations hereby supports efforts to bring the retired aircraft carrier USS John F.  
10 Kennedy to Aquidneck Island; and be it further

11           RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to  
12 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to Governor Donald Carcieri, Congressman  
13 Patrick Kennedy, the USS Saratoga Museum Foundation, the Portsmouth Economic  
14 Development Committee, the Portsmouth Town Council, and the Rhode Island Aviation Hall of  
15 Fame, Inc.

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