

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education recognizes the significant accomplishments of Rear Admiral Richard Gurnon at the conclusion of his tenth year as president of Massachusetts Maritime Academy; and

WHEREAS, Rear Admiral Gurnon joined Massachusetts Maritime Academy thirty-six years ago in 1978, as a second company officer; and

WHEREAS, Rear Admiral Gurnon rose through the administrative ranks at the Academy, being promoted to Dean of Students in 1991, Vice President of Student Services in 1994, and Executive Vice President in 2003, before being named Interim President of the Academy in 2004; and

WHEREAS, Rear Admiral Gurnon has led Massachusetts Maritime Academy through a period of growth, with a 50 percent increase in enrollment in the past ten years, raising the academic standards and making the institution more competitive, while preparing students for high-demand jobs as business leaders, ship captains, engineers and professional officers; and

WHEREAS, Rear Admiral Gurnon is recognized for bringing Massachusetts Maritime Academy into the 21st century, winning praise for its status as a Green Campus, with the addition of a \$1.4 million wind turbine and the addition of photovoltaic and solar energy heating and lighting, and leading the campus through a current \$40 million residence hall renovation; and

WHEREAS, Rear Admiral Gurnon is a graduate of the United States Naval Academy, has flown anti-submarine aircraft throughout the Mediterranean and Atlantic, and has served as a mission commander and pilot instructor; and

WHEREAS, Rear Admiral Gurnon has served in leadership roles at the state and national levels, to include the National Marine Life Center, American Bureau of Shipping, and Columbia University's Center for Energy, Marine Transportation and Public Policy; and

WHEREAS, Rear Admiral Gurnon has been recognized as an asset to the Bourne community and served in various positions with the Cape Cod Canal Regional Chamber of Commerce, including Co-Chair of the Cape Cod Canal Centennial Celebration, Vice Chairman of the Buzzards Bay Village Association, and member of the Bourne Financial Development Corporation; and

WHEREAS, the Massachusetts Maritime Academy Board of Trustees has recognized Rear Admiral Gurnon for his thirty-six years of service to the Academy and Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, Rear Admiral Gurnon has worked tirelessly throughout his tenure and has demonstrated profound commitment to what is best for students of the Commonwealth and its system of public higher education;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT

On behalf of the members of the Board of Higher Education, the Department staff, and the students and institutions of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education honors and commends Rear Admiral Richard Gurnon on the occasion of his retirement from the presidency at the Massachusetts Maritime Academy.

Chris Gabrieli, Chairman
Massachusetts Board of Higher Education

Richard M. Freeland, Commissioner
Massachusetts Department of Higher Education

June 16, 2015