

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No.

WHEREAS, George Nee began his decades of labor organizing and leadership in the 1969 United Farm Workers of America grape boycott in Dorchester, Massachusetts, demonstrating his resolve and his solidarity with working people; and

WHEREAS, That solidarity deepened with his assignment to Rhode Island in support of the 1971 lettuce boycott, where his experiences with farm workers deeply influenced his belief that labor organizing and collective action would allow working people to control their lives and economic futures; and

WHEREAS, In part due to his efforts in organizing jewelry, clerical, and healthcare workers upon his return to Rhode Island in the years following the 1971 lettuce boycott, Nee served as founding president of the Service Employees International Union, Local 76 between 1976 and 1983; and

WHEREAS, Nee was hired by the Rhode Island AFL-CIO in 1983, serving as staff representative, executive director, secretary-treasurer, and, finally, president over his tenure and remaining a steadfast champion of Rhode Islanders and their right to organize; and



WHEREAS, After 15 years as president of the Rhode Island AFL-CIO and having held a vocation as a labor organizer and leader of 54 years, Nee retired from the presidency of the Rhode Island AFL-CIO in 2024 having left an unparalleled legacy and abiding influence for the labor movement in Rhode Island; and

WHEREAS, The Providence City Council wishes to convey its gratitude for the diligence, fortitude, and commitment of George Nee and of all leaders of the labor movement in Rhode Island following in his stead.


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, The Providence City Council supports and urges passage by the Rhode Island General Assembly of House Bill H-8474 and its Senate companion Senate Bill S-3170, which would rename the state bridge crossing Smith Street over the northbound and southbound lanes of Interstate 95 in honor of George Nee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That upon passage, copies of this resolution be transmitted to lead sponsors Representative Christopher Blazejewski and Senator Jacob Bissaillon, Speaker of the Rhode Island House of Representatives K. Joseph Shekarchi, President of the Rhode Island Senate Valarie J. Lawson, the remaining members of the Providence delegation to the General Assembly, and to the Rhode Island AFL-CIO to express the strong support of the Providence City Council for House Bill H-8474 and Senate Bill S-3170.

IN CITY COUNCIL
JUN 04 2026
READ AND PASSED


RACHEL M. MILLER, PRESIDENT

CLERK

I HEREBY APPROVE.


Brett P. Smith,
Mayor

Date: 6/8/26

2026 -- H 8474 SUBSTITUTE A

LC006318/SUB A

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

A N A C T

RELATING TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY -- PERMANENT JOINT COMMITTEE ON
NAMING ALL NEW BUILDINGS, BRIDGES, EDIFICES AND OTHER STATE
CONSTRUCTIONS

Introduced By: Representatives Blazejewski, Shekarchi, Kazarian, Biah, DeSimone,
Slater, Kislak, Ajello, Diaz, and Hull

Date Introduced: April 17, 2026

Referred To: House Special Legislation

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 22-7.4 of the General Laws entitled "Permanent Joint Committee on
2 Naming All New Buildings, Bridges, Edifices and Other State Constructions" is hereby amended
3 by adding thereto the following section:

4 **22-7.4-160. George Nee Bridge.**

5 Bridge number 44-00000000007010, located in Providence, Rhode Island, where U.S.
6 Route 44 (Smith Street) crosses over both northbound and southbound lanes of Interstate 95,
7 roughly a tenth of a mile south of the junction with Route 146, shall hereafter be named the "George
8 Nee Bridge" and provided further, signs indicating such shall be provided through private funds
9 with the design and placement approved by the department of transportation.

10 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

LC006318/SUB A

EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY -- PERMANENT JOINT COMMITTEE ON
NAMING ALL NEW BUILDINGS, BRIDGES, EDIFICES AND OTHER STATE
CONSTRUCTIONS

1 This act would designate bridge number 44-00000000007010, located in Providence,
2 Rhode Island, where U.S. Route 44 (Smith Street) crosses over both northbound and southbound
3 lanes of Interstate 95, roughly a tenth of a mile south of the junction with Route 146, as the "George
4 Nee Bridge."

5 This act would take effect upon passage.

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LC006318/SUB A
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2026 -- S 3170 SUBSTITUTE A

LC006215/SUB A/2

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

A N A C T

RELATING TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY -- PERMANENT JOINT COMMITTEE ON
NAMING ALL NEW BUILDINGS, BRIDGES, EDIFICES AND OTHER STATE
CONSTRUCTIONS

Introduced By: Senators Bissaillon, Lawson, Ciccone, Tikoian, Gallo, Murray, Burke,
and Britto

Date Introduced: March 27, 2026

Referred To: Senate Special Legislation and Veterans Affairs

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 22-7.4 of the General Laws entitled "Permanent Joint Committee on
2 Naming All New Buildings, Bridges, Edifices and Other State Constructions" is hereby amended
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LC006215/SUB A/2

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