

I was contacted in December 2021 by an Indian-American from East Greenwich who is involved with the Federated Indian Organizations of New England regarding securing a citation for Vivek Ranjan Agnihotr for the premiere of his film “The Kashmir Files” that was being presented at Rhode Island College on Dec. 9, 2021. I had worked with this Rhode Island resident on securing citations for the performers at the annual Diwali Day Festival of Lights celebration at the State House in past years and told him I would be happy to secure a citation.

At the time, I was traveling for a legislative meeting from Dec. 8-10<sup>th</sup>, and I told him that I would have a citation prepared but I would not be able to personally sign it. Typically, I would sign my signature above where my name is printed

The citation from the State was to simply recognize the premiere of this movie. I have not met the director nor was I present to view the movie, although I have seen scenes of the movie that were provided to me in advance of the showing. I understand there were over 250 people present at the movie premiere at Rhode Island College and that it was a very compelling movie that generated many emotions.

A citation is what we provide to people for a special event of life. We give them to Boy Scouts who achieve the rank of Eagle Scout. We give them to students who attain a special honor or sports achievement. We provide them to retirees and those having a special birthday. A citation is simply the acknowledgement of a special event. It does NOT hold the weight of a Resolution approved by the members of the House. This citation was strictly given to the movie director for the premiere of his movie. It is nothing more and it is NOT an endorsement of the State of Rhode Island and the House of Representatives.

As an American who has visited India in August of 2017 (Delhi, Mumbai and Kerala), I respect the Indian people and hope that this vibrant democracy will continue to grow and respect the rights of all people.

Sincerely,  
Brian Patrick Kennedy  
State Representative