

**CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

**ADDENDUM**

**TO THE**

**HOUSE CALENDAR**

**Text of House Concurrent  
Resolutions**

**of**

**January 4, 2024**

## **Concurrent Resolutions for Adoption Under Joint Rules 16a -16d**

The following concurrent resolutions will be adopted automatically unless a Senator or Representative requests floor consideration in the member's chamber prior to adjournment of the next legislative day. Requests for floor consideration in either chamber should be communicated to the Senate Secretary's Office or the House Clerk's Office, as applicable.

### **Resolutions**

#### **H.C.R. 128**

House concurrent resolution honoring Vermont National Guard Deputy Adjutant General Kenneth Gragg for his exemplary career accomplishments

Offered by: Representatives Hango of Berkshire, Biron of Vergennes, Sibia of Dover, Austin of Colchester, Bluemle of Burlington, Brumsted of Shelburne, Cina of Burlington, Dolan of Essex Junction, Dolan of Waitsfield, Donahue of Northfield, Goslant of Northfield, Gregoire of Fairfield, Harrison of Chittenden, Houghton of Essex Junction, Howard of Rutland City, Krasnow of South Burlington, Lipsky of Stowe, Morgan of Milton, Morrissey of Bennington, Nugent of South Burlington, Ode of Burlington, Page of Newport City, Rachelson of Burlington, Smith of Derby, Stevens of Waterbury, Stone of Burlington, Taylor of Colchester, Williams of Granby, and Wood of Waterbury

Offered by: Senators Hardy, Ram Hinsdale, Williams, and Wrenner

Whereas, Deputy Adjutant General Ken Gragg began his military service in 1978 with a four-year enlistment in the U.S. Air Force, and

Whereas, as a Vermont National Guard (VTNG) member from 1982–2008, he served as Supervisor and Superintendent of the Munitions Storage Area, Chief of Security Forces, and as Command Chief Master Sergeant, and

Whereas, from 2001–2014, Ken Gragg was employed at the Williston Law Enforcement Support Center of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, where he served as Director of Financial Operations, and

Whereas, for the past decade, Ken Gragg has served honorably at the Vermont Department of Military Affairs, first, from 2014–2018, as Financial Director, where, in 2015, he enabled the Department to earn its first clean financial audit, and since 2018, as the Vermont Deputy Adjutant General, and

Whereas, his skill and leadership were essential in the planning and financing of many significant departmental construction projects, and

Whereas, Ken Gragg's effective advocacy and professional partnership with the VTNG and Veterans' Affairs Legislative Caucus were important factors in the General Assembly's adoption of an improved VTNG Tuition Benefit Program, a revision of the State's VTNG laws, and a more reliable capital funding stream, and

Whereas, as Deputy Adjutant General, he coordinated the rapid construction of a temporary 400-bed Alternate Health Care Facility in response to COVID-19, and

Whereas, Ken Gragg is concluding his service as Deputy Adjutant General with great distinction, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors Vermont National Guard Deputy Adjutant General Kenneth Gragg for his exemplary career accomplishments, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Deputy Adjutant General Kenneth Gragg.

### **H.C.R. 129**

House concurrent resolution designating September 26, 2024 as Mesothelioma Awareness Day in Vermont

Offered by: Representative Priestley of Bradford

Whereas, mesothelioma is a form of cancer contracted through exposure to asbestos that can affect the membrane of a person's abdomen, heart, or testicles, but in 80 to 90 percent of its occurrences, it directly impacts an individual's lungs, which is known as the pleural form of the disease, and

Whereas, the symptoms of pleural mesothelioma are persistent chest pain and coughing, difficulty breathing, fatigue, fever, pleural effusion, shortness of breath, and weight loss, and

Whereas, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that approximately 2,500 mesothelioma deaths, from all variants, occur each year in the United States, and that for pleural mesothelioma, the survival rates are 73 percent for one year and 12 percent for five years, and from all variants of the disease, 54,905 Americans died between 1999 and 2020, and

Whereas, in Vermont, asbestos was discovered in approximately 1824 on Belvidere Mountain, and throughout the 19th century, small prospecting projects occurred, and

Whereas, in 1901, major mining activity began that, by the 1960s, was extracting an average of 3,500 tons of asbestos daily, and before the mine's closure in 1993, Vermont had become the second-largest source of asbestos after California, and

Whereas, for decades, asbestos was a common construction material, and although the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency banned its spray-on use in 1978, effectively reducing its prevalence in newer buildings, countless older structures containing asbestos are still in active use, and asbestos remains in

products such as brake linings and pads, cement pipes and sheets, fireproofing textiles, and flooring and carpet adhesive, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly designates September 26, 2024 as Mesothelioma Awareness Day in Vermont, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Mary Elizabeth Esposito in Bradford.

### **H.C.R. 130**

House concurrent resolution honoring Richard DeGray for his dedication to the botanical beautification of Brattleboro

Offered by: Representatives Burke of Brattleboro, Kornheiser of Brattleboro, and Toleno of Brattleboro

Offered by: Senators Harrison and Hashim

Whereas, a decade ago, Brattleboro business owner and former selectboard member Dick DeGray decided that his community's downtown would benefit from a flowery presence, and he raised funds for the purchase of 22 flowerpots and associated plants and soil, and

Whereas, with the financial support of downtown Brattleboro businesses, the inventory of plants has expanded to more than 200 items, and

Whereas, drawing on the collected monies, Dick DeGray acquired a pickup truck that enables him to water plants directly from the vehicle's driver's seat and includes a door appropriately labeled with the word "Bloom," and

Whereas, Ahmed Rashed of Rashed's Garden Center in West Brattleboro has been a primary supplier of the project's gardening elements, and

Whereas, daily, during the warmer months, Dick DeGray rose prior to dawn to water all these plants, whose flowers have created a colorful municipal floral environment, and

Whereas, his dedication to this extraordinary beautification project is a demanding volunteer vocation, and, at the conclusion of the 2023 watering season, Dick DeGray, now 71 years of age, decided to conclude his greatly appreciated role that will hopefully continue, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors Richard DeGray for his dedication to the botanical beautification of Brattleboro, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Dick DeGray and to Ahmed Rashed.

### **H.C.R. 131**

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2023 Division I Colchester High School Lakers championship girls' soccer team

Offered by: Representatives Austin of Colchester, Brennan of Colchester, Chase of Colchester, and Taylor of Colchester

Offered by: Senators Baruth, Mazza, and Vyhovsky

Whereas, for three long decades, the Colchester Lakers tried their best to capture a girls' soccer championship, appearing in six finals since their last crown, and reaching at least three semi-finals throughout the past decade, and

Whereas, 2023 proved to be a season the second-seeded Lakers will long remember as they propelled their way into the championship game against the ninth-seeded Essex High School Hornets at the University of Vermont's Virtue Field, and

Whereas, the talented Lakers tallied two goals by the seventh minute of play, and their always alert defense ensured that they clinched a 2-0 victory and the Division I title, and

Whereas, these proud Colchester athletes were Aurora Proulx, Brinlee Gilfillan, Caitlyn McGowan, Kelsi Pratt, Lilly Connor, Elise MacAuley, Ava Moore, Lorelei Right, Isabel Benoure, Isabelle Winton, Rylee Murray, Addyson Hogan, Emily Thompson, Marybeth Miller, Sarah Palmer, Jillian Thomason, Isabella Benson, Katie McCullagh, Maddie Couture, Kate Bradford, Maddie Gardzina, and Hailey Fane-Cushing, and

Whereas, Head Coach Jeff Paul and assistant coaches Mike Plante and Nicole DeOrsey were fantastic team mentors, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the 2023 Division I Colchester High School Lakers championship girls' soccer team, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Colchester High School.