

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

ADDENDUM

TO THE

HOUSE CALENDAR

**Text of House Concurrent
Resolutions**

of

February 15, 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.

H.C.R. 151

House concurrent resolution commemorating the fifth anniversary of the death of Jenna Tatro and honoring the work of Jenna's Promise

Offered by: Representatives Noyes of Wolcott and Carpenter of Hyde Park

Offered by: Senator Westman

Whereas, for six years, Jenna Tatro struggled to overcome her personal substance use crisis before succumbing to it and dying on February 15, 2019, and

Whereas, Jenna's parents, Greg and Dawn Tatro, along with her siblings, Gregory and Amy Tatro, cofounded Jenna's Promise, honoring her desire, despite her own personal situation, to help others similarly challenged, and

Whereas, Jenna's Promise is "a recovery community in northern Vermont with a whole-life approach to the treatment of substance use disorder" and with a "mission to create a network of support that will help people suffering from substance use disorder," making Jenna's Promise a Vermont leader among substance use recovery organizations, and

Whereas, a primary project was the establishment of Jenna's House Community & Recovery Center in Johnson, which opened in 2021 and is located in a former Catholic church that the family purchased with Jenna's life insurance payment, and

Whereas, Jenna's House Community & Recovery Center "help[s] to break down the stigma associated with substance use disorders" through the hosting of abuse recovery meetings associated with all substances, and it serves as a business, community, and event space, and

Whereas, on February 15, 2024, Jenna's Promise is spearheading a social media conversation that will serve as a reflection on Jenna Tatro's life, discuss the impact of substance use on communities, promote hope and recovery from substance use, empower change, and honor her legacy, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly commemorates the fifth anniversary of the death of Jenna Tatro and honors the work of Jenna's Promise, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Jenna's Promise, to Greg and Dawn Tatro, to Gregory Tatro, and to Amy Tatro.

H.C.R. 152

House concurrent resolution recognizing March 13, 2024 as National K9 Veterans Day in Vermont

Offered by: Representatives Roberts of Halifax, Beck of St. Johnsbury, Dolan of Essex Junction, Graning of Jericho, Gregoire of Fairfield, Hango of Berkshire, Harrison of Chittenden, Labor of Morgan, LaBounty of Lyndon, Masland of Thetford, McCann of Montpelier, Morrissey of Bennington, Ode of Burlington, Patt of Worcester, Sammis of Castleton, Templeman of Brownington, and Troiano of Stannard

Offered by: Senators Collamore, Hardy, Harrison, Hashim, Norris, Sears, and Wrenner

Whereas, when Americans reflect on our nation's military personnel, they typically think of the outstanding men and women serving in the U.S. Armed Forces, and

Whereas, although most of the members of the U.S. Armed Forces are indeed human beings, a select group of approximately 1,600 highly trained four-legged fighters of the canine species also serve the nation, performing vital military roles, and continuing a tradition dating from at least the Civil War, and

Whereas, these four-legged soldiers graduate from the vigorous 120-day Military Working Dog Training Program of the San Antonio-based U.S. Air Force 341st Training Squadron, which has a mission "to provide trained military working dogs and handlers...for security efforts worldwide," and

Whereas, most of these skilled K9 combatants are trained for the dual roles of patrol duty and sniffing for either drugs or explosives, and

Whereas, the usual career path for military dogs is to remain assigned exclusively to the U.S. Air Force, the U.S. Army, the U.S. Coast Guard, the U.S. Navy, or the U.S. Marines Corps for the duration of their careers, and

Whereas, a special bond develops between the human handler and their assigned military dog, and

Whereas, the duties the dogs are assigned are physically demanding, and their training regimen keeps them in top condition, but when injuries arise, the Lt. Col. Daniel E. Holland Military Working Dog Hospital in San Antonio provides expert and compassionate health care, and

Whereas, without military dogs, many aspects of the U.S. Armed Forces' responsibilities could not be fully implemented, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly recognizes March 13, 2024 as National K9 Veterans Day in Vermont, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution the U.S. Air Force 341st Training Squadron in San Antonio, Texas.

H.C.R. 153

House concurrent resolution commemorating Molly Davies's transfer of 350 acres of land in the Town of Wheelock to the Nulhegan Band of the Coosuk Abenaki Nation

Offered by: Representatives Roberts of Halifax, Stevens of Waterbury, Bluemle of Burlington, Brumsted of Shelburne, Burrows of West Windsor, Chesnut-Tangerman of Middletown Springs, LaBounty of Lyndon, LaMont of Morristown, and Wilson of Lyndon

Whereas, since the 1990s, the family of Molly Davies had owned 600 acres of land in the Town of Wheelock, and

Whereas, approximately six years ago, the Vermont Land Trust established a conservation easement over the entire parcel, and a supportive farmer secured ownership of the 250 agricultural acres, and

Whereas, Molly Davies sought to transfer the ownership of the remaining 350 forested acres to a new owner, who, in accordance with the already created conservation easement, would appreciate the parcel for such natural purposes as maple sugaring, as the site features a maple sugaring house, and fishing on the adjacent Chandler Pond, and

Whereas, with these goals in mind, when Molly Davies happened to meet Chief Don Stevens of the Nulhegan Band of the Coosuk Abenaki Nation at a Stowe art gallery event, she broached the idea of transferring the ownership of the conserved land to his band, and

Whereas, Chief Stevens was initially skeptical, knowing of insincere historic offers, but Molly Davies persuaded him to walk the land with her, and

Whereas, two years later, with the technical support of the organization Abenaki Helping Abenaki, on the propitious occasion of Indigenous Peoples' Day 2023, this momentous 350-acre land transfer, which did not cost the band any money, was consummated, in the presence of approximately 50 persons, and

Whereas, the land transfer ceremony, which is known as livery of seisin or a feoffment, featured Molly Davies handing an evergreen branch to Chief Stevens and then the passing around of a pipe, which contributed a special fragrance to the festivities, and

Whereas, Chief Stevens cherished this joyous moment, as the band secured legal ownership and band stewardship of land it has long held sacred, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly commemorates Molly Davies's transfer of 350 acres of land in the Town of Wheelock to the Nulhegan Band of the Coosuk Abenaki Nation, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Molly Davies and Chief Don Stevens of the Nulhegan Band of the Coosuk Abenaki Nation.

H.C.R. 154

House concurrent resolution honoring Johnson Selectboard Chair Beth Foy for her public service as an outstanding municipal legislative leader

Offered by: Representatives Noyes of Wolcott and Carpenter of Hyde Park

Offered by: Senator Westman

Whereas, in 2021, Beth Foy was elected to a seat on the Johnson Selectboard, and during her term, she served as the panel's chair, and

Whereas, Beth Foy found her time as a selectboard member to be personally fulfilling and highly informative, and

Whereas, she was delighted to become acquainted with many local residents who expressed respect for the public service that selectboard members perform on a daily basis, and

Whereas, as a selectboard member, Beth Foy became familiar with many administrative aspects of local government, including grant funding, the formation of municipal policies, and the interrelated procedures of property tax assessments and reappraisal, and

Whereas, topics on which she developed an expertise were animal control, health inspections, winter salt application on highways, and flooding, a subject that, given the significant damage during the July 2023 water deluge, assumed immediate importance and was one that she had not envisioned becoming so timely, and

Whereas, as Johnson Selectboard Chair, Beth Foy demonstrated an astute awareness of her community's concerns and her polished leadership skills, and

Whereas, after a term of service on the Johnson Selectboard, Beth Foy is not standing for reelection, and her leadership deserves high commendation, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors Johnson Selectboard Chair Beth Foy for her public service as an outstanding municipal legislative leader, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Beth Foy.

H.C.R. 155

House concurrent resolution honoring Richard Angus Cawley for his devoted public service in the Town of Corinth

Offered by: Representatives Demrow of Corinth and Priestley of Bradford

Offered by: Senator MacDonald

Whereas, for 37 years, Rick Cawley, a graduate of Vermont Law School, employed his considerable talents on behalf of the Town of Corinth and the Waits River Valley Unified School District #36, and

Whereas, beginning in 1986, Rick Cawley assumed two town agent positions, one for deeding real property, and a second to perform defense and prosecutorial litigation duties, and he continued in each of these roles until his retirement from the Vermont bar in 2019, and

Whereas, as town agent, Rick Cawley drafted the Town of Corinth's antinuclear ordinance, which the selectboard adopted on May 18, 1992, and

Whereas, on two occasions (from 1994 to 1995 and again from 2011 to 2021), Rick Cawley held the job of Corinth Grand Juror, and

Whereas, from 1995 to 2003, in the far more visible capacity of Corinth Town Moderator, Rick Cawley sharpened his mastery of *Robert's Rules of Order*, as he expertly and fairly presided at town meetings, and

Whereas, Rick Cawley’s most recent municipal service (from 2019 to 2023) was his membership on the Corinth Selectboard, which included chairing the panel and overseeing the successful opening of the new East Corinth Fire Station, and

Whereas, from 1997 to 2004, Rick Cawley served as a school director for Waits River Valley Unified School District #36, and from 2013 to 2021, he relied on his familiarity with *Robert’s Rules of Order* as the district’s moderator, and

Whereas, in 1990, in the midst of his Corinth roles, and while maintaining a private law practice in Bradford, Rick Cawley served as President of the Washington Electric Co-op, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors Richard Angus Cawley for his devoted public service in the Town of Corinth, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Rick Cawley.

H.C.R. 156

House concurrent resolution honoring Harry Roush for his four-plus decades of exceptional municipal public service in the Town of Washington

Offered by: Representative Demrow of Corinth

Offered by: Senator MacDonald

Whereas, on matters of public protection and safety and emergency relief, as well as broader administrative affairs, no one in the Town of Washington has contributed more than Harry Roush, and

Whereas, Harry Roush’s illustrious community service began in 1982 when he joined the municipality’s fire department, and in 1989, his technical expertise and wise judgment resulted in his appointment as the department’s chief, a role he continued until 2001, and in 2024, he remains a volunteer firefighter, and

Whereas, in 1996, this distinguished public servant became the town’s Enhanced 911 contact person; from 2004 to 2017, Harry Roush served in the broader role as Washington’s Emergency Management Coordinator, a post that included acting as Washington’s FEMA administrator after Tropical Storm Irene; and, more recently, in the pandemic context, he was the town’s American Rescue Plan Act reporter, and

Whereas, beyond these emergency-inspired roles, Harry Roush has been entrusted to serve in numerous other town leadership positions including as a lister for many of the past 41 years; a justice of the peace and board of civil authority member (from 2011 to the present); a planning commission and board of abatement member (from 2013 to 2023); and, for the past 11 years, as the Washington Moderator, in which capacity he has adroitly ensured decorum and order at town meetings, and

Whereas, as if all these duties did not keep him sufficiently busy, since 2015, Harry Roush has held the office of assistant town clerk, and although he officially retired in 2022, the town requested that he return to the office in March 2023 to mentor the new Washington Town Clerk, and

Whereas, Harry Roush was named Washington Citizen of the Year in 1998, but, 26 years later, his record of municipal achievements is far longer and more illustrious, and at the 2024 Town Meeting, the Town of Washington is again honoring Harry Roush with even more emphatic special praise, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors Harry Roush for his four-plus decades of exceptional municipal public service in the Town of Washington, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Harry Roush.

H.C.R. 157

House concurrent resolution congratulating the Boyd Family Farm in Wilmington on the centennial of its current agricultural home

Offered by: Representatives Roberts of Halifax, Cole of Hartford, Durfee of Shaftsbury, Graham of Williamstown, Hooper of Randolph, Leavitt of Grand Isle, Lipsky of Stowe, O'Brien of Tunbridge, Pearl of Danville, Rice of Dorset, Sibia of Dover, Surprenant of Barnard, Templeman of Brownington, and Wilson of Lyndon

Whereas, as a result of the 1923 Harriman Reservoir flood, the Boyd family of Wilmington relocated its traditional Vermont farm from its original location, which ancestors had established in 1775, to its present site, and

Whereas, a century later, the Boyd family remains an engaged agricultural clan, although the nature of the family's working relationship to the land and its customer base has evolved, and

Whereas, recognizing the contemporary challenges of farming in Vermont, the founders' descendants redirected their efforts primarily to developing a horticultural center that raises a variety of flowers, both perennial and annual, and

Whereas, the botanical abundance cultivated at the Boyd Family Farm has led to offering the public customized wedding floral services, and

Whereas, during the summertime, blueberries are a special focus at the Boyd Family Farm, with visitors having the option of purchasing them pre-picked or picking their own, and this nicely complements the Deerfield Valley Blueberry Festival, which the Vermont Chamber of Commerce recognizes as a Gold Top Ten Summer Event, and

Whereas, in recent years, the Boyd Family Farm has introduced a home landscaping service and a modified Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program featuring a farm member card or farm credit and enabling consumers to select the quantity and type of annual plants, berries, Christmas trees, pumpkins, organically grown vegetables, shrubs, and wreaths they desire to purchase, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the Boyd Family Farm in Wilmington on the centennial of its current agricultural home, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Boyd Family Farm.

H.C.R. 158

House concurrent resolution designating February 22, 2024 as Age Strong Vermont Day at the State House

Offered by: Representatives Noyes of Wolcott, Arsenault of Williston, Birong of Vergennes, Bos-Lun of Westminster, Boyden of Cambridge, Brown of Richmond, Brumsted of Shelburne, Buss of Woodstock, Campbell of St. Johnsbury, Carpenter of Hyde Park, Chapin of East Montpelier, Chase of Chester, Cole of Hartford, Dolan of Essex Junction, Farlice-Rubio of Barnet, Garofano of Essex, Goldman of Rockingham, Gregoire of Fairfield, Hooper of Burlington, Hyman of South Burlington, Lalley of Shelburne, Masland of Thetford, McFaun of Barre Town, McGill of Bridport, Mrowicki of Putney, Ode of Burlington, Pajala of Londonderry, Rachelson of Burlington, Rice of Dorset, Stebbins of Burlington, Whitman of Bennington, Williams of Barre City, and Wood of Waterbury

Whereas, according to the latest American Community Survey estimate, nearly 30 percent of the State’s population is at least 60 years of age, and these Vermonters face increased risk of financial insecurity, social isolation, and chronic disease, and

Whereas, this demographic reality presents challenges, but it also presents opportunities to re-envision aging, to capitalize on the diverse experiences of older Vermonters, and to ensure that they contribute to the State’s vibrancy, and

Whereas, in 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 156, known as the Older Vermonters Act, in Sec. 3(b), the General Assembly directed that a plan be developed to “provide strategies and cultivate partnerships for implementation across sectors to promote aging with...dignity [and]...to establish and maintain an age-friendly State for all Vermonters,” and

Whereas, on January 29, 2024, the Age Strong VT Advisory Committee approved a final plan entitled *Age Strong VT, Our Roadmap for an Age-Friendly State*, which presents a 10-year vision that addresses Vermont’s changing age demographics, and the plan focuses on seven areas: affordable aging, healthy aging for all, social connection, infrastructure for the future, elder justice, family caregiver support, and strengthening systems of support, and

Whereas, according to the University of Vermont’s Center for Rural Studies’ 2023 Vermonter Poll, 64.2 percent of the respondents did not believe Vermont had adequate resources to address the needs of the State’s older residents, and 81 percent concurred that it was important to create a 10-year action plan for the support of an age-friendly State, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly designates February 22, 2024 as Age Strong Vermont Day at the State House, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Governor Philip B. Scott, the Commissioner of Health, and the Commissioner of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living.

H.C.R. 159

House concurrent resolution congratulating the Vermont State Employees’ Association on its 80th anniversary

Offered by: Representatives Oliver of Sheldon, Garofano of Essex, and Hooper of Burlington

Whereas, in 1944, a group of State of Vermont employees formed the Vermont State Employees' Association (VSEA) to advocate before the General Assembly on behalf of their colleagues, and

Whereas, during the first quarter century of the organization's existence, the VSEA, bereft of any state employee collective bargaining rights, was unable to negotiate directly with State officials on any aspect of State employment, and

Whereas, the first breakthrough on this challenge was the enactment of the State Employees Labor Relations Act, 1969 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. 1, which authorized collective bargaining on working conditions but, with respect to wages and salary schedules, only "to the extent they are inconsistent with rates prevailing in commerce and industry for comparable work within the state," and

Whereas, the VSEA continued to advocate for full collective bargaining rights with respect to compensation, and, in 1977 Acts and Resolves No. 109, Sec. 5, the General Assembly established these rights for this fundamental employment element, and

Whereas, over the decades, the VSEA has expanded the scope of its employee representation to include nine bargaining units that now encompass corrections, the Defender General, a housing authority unit, the Judiciary, a nonmanagement unit, the State's Attorney's office, the State deputy sheriffs, supervisory employees, and the Vermont State Colleges, and

Whereas, the VSEA is governed through its Board of Trustees and, ultimately, the over 120-member VSEA Council, and it is organized into 14 regional chapters plus two specialized chapters, one for retirees and a second for the Vermont State Hospital, and

Whereas, the nearly 6,000-member VSEA is a proudly independent organization focused exclusively on advocating and bargaining for the best interests and economic well-being of Vermont State employees, and it vigorously pursues these objectives, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the Vermont State Employees' Association on its 80th anniversary, and be it further

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