

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

ADDENDUM

TO THE

HOUSE CALENDAR

**Text of House Concurrent
Resolutions**

of

February 22, 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. 160

House concurrent resolution in memory of veteran Pownal firefighter Kenneth Carlton O'Dell

Offered by: Representatives Brownell of Pownal and Morrissey of Bennington

Offered by: Senators Campion and Sears

Whereas, the citizens of the Town of Pownal were well acquainted with their neighbor Ken O'Dell, and

Whereas, Ken O'Dell spent his working career as a burner technician, and

Whereas, Ken O'Dell's devotion to the Pownal Fire Department is an important chapter in the organization's history, as, for an amazing 65 years, he regularly responded to the department's calls to repel blazes and assist with urgent rescues, and

Whereas, seldom does a volunteer firefighter compile such an extensive record of public service, and Ken O'Dell's life choice to don a firefighter's uniform from his early 20s until his death at 88 years of age is most remarkable, and

Whereas, outdoor activities were a special pleasure for Ken O'Dell, as he found great pleasure in camping, gardening, hunting, and fishing, and

Whereas, his family was of great personal importance, and he avidly cheered for professional football's New York Giants, and

Whereas, although Ken O'Dell's recreational and family interests were a central aspect of his life, the community service he offered was nonetheless superb, and

Whereas, for many years, he was the Oak Hill Cemetery Superintendent, helping to ensure that the departed were properly looked after, and

Whereas, the death of Ken O'Dell, on February 3, 2024, marked the passing of a man who had been married to Eva Anne Leonard for 64 years,

until her death in 2019, and he is survived by his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly extends its condolences to the family of Kenneth Carlton O'Dell, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the family of Ken O'Dell and to the Pownal Fire Department.

H.C.R. 161

House concurrent resolution honoring Newport City Council Chair John Wilson for his national and municipal public service

Offered by: Representatives Page of Newport City, Hango of Berkshire, Higley of Lowell, Labor of Morgan, Marcotte of Coventry, and Smith of Derby

Offered by: Senators Ingalls and Starr

Whereas, John Wilson was born and raised in Rock Island, Quebec, and he and his wife, Janis Wilson, emigrated to Vermont as young adults, and

Whereas, in 1968, the U.S. Army drafted John Wilson, and although he could have surrendered his green card and returned to Canada, his patriotic desire to become an American citizen led him to serve his new country, and

Whereas, after completion of basic training, John Wilson was deployed to Vietnam, where he encountered combat, and

Whereas, in 1983, during his military service, John Wilson was proud to take the oath as a U.S. citizen, and

Whereas, John Wilson's Vietnam service began a 28-year U.S. Army career that took him and his family around the world, and, in 1998, he was honorably discharged from military service as an operations sergeant major, and

Whereas, in 2001, John Wilson won a seat on the Newport City Council, on which he served until 2018 and then again from 2020 until 2024, and

Whereas, John Wilson's municipal legislative colleagues respected his life experience, and, for 15 years, he chaired the Newport City Council, and

Whereas, in 2018, the *Northland Journal* recognized John and Janis Wilson, honoring their role in advising U.S. military veterans, and

Whereas, after over two decades of leadership and conscientious work as a member of the Newport City Council, John Wilson has decided not to stand for reelection in 2024, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors Newport City Council Chair John Wilson for his national and municipal public service, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to John Wilson and to the Newport City Clerk.

H.C.R. 162

House concurrent resolution honoring Sergeant at Arms Janet Miller for her stellar public service for the General Assembly

Offered by: All Members of the House

Offered by: All Members of the Senate

Whereas, at the State House, the green-jacketed Sergeant at Arms is responsible for overseeing security through the Capitol Police and coordinating the schedule of myriad nonofficial events ranging from Farmers Night to the annual convening of Girls State and Boys State, as well as determining which aspiring eighth graders are invited to serve as legislative pages, and

Whereas, Janet Miller earned an associate degree in graphic art from the Art Institute of Pittsburgh, and her innate creativity has served her well, and

Whereas, in 1999, after working in the hospitality industry at the Inn at Montpelier, she joined the support staff of the former Legislative Council and, in 2012, was promoted to a deputy directorship, and

Whereas, in 2015, Janet Miller's proven record of excellence at the Legislative Council persuaded members of the General Assembly to elect her Sergeant at Arms, and her electoral victories in 2017, 2019, 2021, and 2023 confirmed the wisdom of their original decision, and

Whereas, in March 2020, when the COVID-19 pandemic struck Vermont, the General Assembly pivoted to a virtual legislative world, and Janet Miller offered support and guidance, and, equally important, as the Legislative Branch cautiously returned to in-person meetings in the summer of 2021, Janet Miller became an ad hoc public health warden, rearranging meeting spaces, arranging COVID-19 testing opportunities, and posting room capacity, vaccination, and testing information throughout the State House, and

Whereas, Janet Miller also became immersed in construction minutiae, with a major HVAC project underway and continuing discussions of possible additions to the State House, and

Whereas, after being elected five times as Sergeant at Arms, Janet Miller has announced the conclusion of her tenure, effective March 1, 2024, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors Sergeant at Arms Janet Miller for her stellar public service for the General Assembly, and be it further

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

H.C.R. 163

House concurrent resolution recognizing Public Schools Week in Vermont

Offered by: Representatives Stone of Burlington, Andrews of Westford, Andriano of Orwell, Anthony of Barre City, Arrison of Weathersfield, Arsenault of Williston, Austin of Colchester, Bartholomew of Hartland, Bartley of Fairfax, Berbeco of Winooski, Black of Essex, Bluemle of Burlington, Bos-Lun of Westminster, Boyden of Cambridge, Brady of Williston, Branagan of Georgia, Brennan of Colchester, Brown of Richmond, Brownell of Pownal, Brumsted of Shelburne, Burditt of West Rutland, Burke of Brattleboro, Burrows of West Windsor, Buss of Woodstock, Canfield of Fair Haven, Carpenter of Hyde Park, Carroll of Bennington, Casey of Montpelier, Chapin of East Montpelier, Chase of Chester, Chesnut-Tangerman of Middletown Springs, Christie of Hartford, Coffey of Guilford, Cole of Hartford, Conlon of Cornwall, Cordes of Lincoln, Demar of Enosburgh, Dickinson of St. Albans Town, Dodge of Essex, Dolan of Essex Junction, Dolan of Waitsfield, Donahue of Northfield, Durfee of Shaftsbury, Emmons of Springfield, Farlice-Rubio of Barnet, Garofano of Essex, Goldman of Rockingham, Goslant of Northfield, Graning of Jericho, Hango of Berkshire, Harrison of Chittenden, Headrick of Burlington, Holcombe of Norwich, Hooper of Burlington, Howard of Rutland City, Hyman of South Burlington, James of Manchester, Jerome of Brandon, Krasnow of South Burlington, Labor of Morgan, LaBounty of Lyndon, Lalley of Shelburne, LaLonde of South Burlington, LaMont of Morristown, Lanpher of Vergennes, Laroche of Franklin, Leavitt of Grand Isle, Lipsky of Stowe, Logan of Burlington, Long of Newfane, Maguire of Rutland City, Marcotte of Coventry, Mattos of Milton, McCann of Montpelier, McCarthy of St. Albans City, McCoy of Poultney, McFaun of Barre Town, McGill of Bridport, Mihaly of Calais, Minier of South

Burlington, Morgan of Milton, Morrissey of Bennington, Mrowicki of Putney, Mulvaney-Stanak of Burlington, Notte of Rutland City, Noyes of Wolcott, O'Brien of Tunbridge, Ode of Burlington, Oliver of Sheldon, Patt of Worcester, Peterson of Clarendon, Pouech of Hinesburg, Priestley of Bradford, Rice of Dorset, Roberts of Halifax, Sammis of Castleton, Satcowitz of Randolph, Scheu of Middlebury, Shaw of Pittsford, Sibia of Dover, Small of Winooski, Smith of Derby, Stebbins of Burlington, Stevens of Waterbury, Surprenant of Barnard, Taylor of Milton, Taylor of Colchester, Templeman of Brownington, Toleno of Brattleboro, Toof of St. Albans Town, Torre of Moretown, Troiano of Stannard, Walker of Swanton, Waters Evans of Charlotte, Whitman of Bennington, Williams of Barre City, Williams of Granby, Wilson of Lyndon, and Wood of Waterbury

Whereas, since the establishment of the State of Vermont, public schools have served as a foundational community and cultural institution, and

Whereas, public schools facilitate a gathering of students from diverse demographic and socioeconomic backgrounds into a forum where they can both learn about and better understand the lives of their peers, and

Whereas, the high-quality education that public school teachers present to their pupils reflects both specific subject knowledge and a broad perspective on our State, nation, and world, and

Whereas, public schools are of enormous importance to all residents as they are a major formulator of Vermont's future, and

Whereas, they are a vital employer of Vermonters who are teachers, coaches, administrators, nurses, cafeteria staff, and custodians, and

Whereas, school board members, who are volunteers, or, at most, receive token compensation, play a critical role in the governance of our public schools, ensuring citizen input into public education, and

Whereas, the sports, dramatics, and other activities, held under the auspices of public school systems, enable the broader community to enjoy watching and participating in these events, and

Whereas, across the nation, the week of February 26–March 1 is being celebrated as Public Schools Week, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly recognizes the week of February 26–March 1 as Public Schools Week in Vermont, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Vermont Secretary of Education, the Vermont State PTA, the

Vermont School Boards Association, the Vermont Superintendents Association, the Vermont Principals' Association, and the Vermont NEA.