

**No. R-477. House concurrent resolution in memory of former Governor Philip Henderson Hoff.**

(H.C.R.403)

Offered by: All Members of the House

Offered by: All Members of the Senate

Whereas, the title of the 2011 book, *Philip Hoff: How Red Turned Blue in the Green Mountain State*, accurately described the seismic political event of former Governor Phil Hoff's 1962 election as Vermont's first Democratic Governor since 1853, and

Whereas, he was born on June 29, 1924, grew up in Turner Falls, Massachusetts, served as a U.S. Navy submariner during World War II, and graduated from Williams College and Cornell University Law School, and

Whereas, Phil Hoff moved to Burlington to practice law; in 1960 he won election as Burlington's State Representative, becoming one of the chamber's Young Turks, and foreshadowing the boldness of his governorship, and

Whereas, on November 6, 1962, he stunned Vermont and the nation with a 1,348-vote gubernatorial victory over incumbent Republican Governor Frank Ray Keyser, and

Whereas, the final tally hinged on the outcome in heavily Democratic Winooski, and shortly after his overwhelming victory in that municipality, the Governor-Elect appeared in the city's center and was proclaimed the King of Winooski with a paper crown to mark this momentous occasion, and

Whereas, Phil Hoff's six-year governorship was breathtaking from any perspective as his administration's achievements included the reapportionment of the General Assembly, the abolishment of the poll tax and the municipal overseers of the poor, the establishment of restrictions on billboard advertising, and the creation of the State Housing Authority and Vermont Public Television, and

Whereas, Governor Phil Hoff was passionate in his support for Civil Rights, cofounding the Vermont-New York Youth Project, and he was the first Democratic Governor to oppose the Vietnam War, and

Whereas, in the 1980s, as a State Senator, he finally obtained funding for the Human Rights Commission that was established on a limited basis during his governorship, and

Whereas, outside the State House, Phil Hoff served as Vermont Law School Board of Trustees President and in many other civic leadership roles, and

Whereas, former Governor Phil Hoff died on April 26, 2018 at 93 years of age, and his survivors include his wife, Joan; his children; and grandchildren, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly extends its sincere condolences to the family of former Governor Philip Henderson Hoff, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the family of former Governor Phil Hoff.