

State of Vermont

House of Representatives



Montpelier, Vermont

Concurrent House Resolution

H.C.R. 100

House concurrent resolution in memory of and tribute to Sally (Apalakian) Oviaan of Rutland

Offered by: Representatives Cupoli of Rutland City, Donovan of Burlington, Fagan of Rutland City, Gage of Rutland City, Howard of Rutland City, and McCoy of Poultney

Offered by: Senators Collamore, Flory, and Mullin

Whereas, Sally Oviaan, a graduate of Ohio University, was a cherished member of the teaching staff at Vermont Adult Learning (VAL) in Rutland for half a century, and

Whereas, in 1967, just one year after Congress enacted the Adult Education Act, declaring a federal commitment to the free education of adults 16 years of age or older, Sally Oviaan began her half-century career as an adult educator, teaching night classes at the local high school to nonnative speakers, and

Whereas, Sally Oviaan transitioned to a full-time adult educator, instructing students in basic academic skills, preparing them for the GED exam, and teaching English and citizenship classes, and

Whereas, she conveyed to her students a large measure of warmth and enthusiasm that inspired them to believe in themselves, and

Whereas, in 1993, Sally Oviaan accompanied two of her students to Washington, D.C. for the first-ever Literacy Congress for adult learners, and these two students subsequently worked with her to establish a student advisory board at VAL in Rutland, a model that spread to all the VAL centers statewide, and

Whereas, in 1995, she encouraged fundraising that enabled two Vermont adult learners to attend the organizational meeting in Tennessee of the Voice of Adult Learners United for Education, and

Whereas, in 1996, Sally Oviaan and the VAL Executive Director took two students to our nation's Capital to testify on adult education before a Senate committee on which Vermont Senator James Jeffords sat, and her efforts resulted in subsequent advocacy trips to Washington, D.C., and

Whereas, every student aspiring to become an American who studied with Sally Oviaan has achieved this special goal, and

Whereas, at a time when literacy financing was being reduced, she established Rutland's Family Reading program, and

Whereas, Sally Oviaan, who at 83 years of age had not retired, and her husband of 60 years, Charles, were the parents of Jeffrey, Rosemarie, and Matthew, and Sally and Charlie Oviaan died in an auto accident on December 28, 2016, and this devoted wife, mother, and extraordinary educator has been described as a community saint, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly expresses its sincere condolences to the Oviaan family, and be it further

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