

State of Vermont House of Representatives



Montpelier, Vermont

Concurrent House Resolution

H.C.R. 143

House concurrent resolution in memory of Leland Kinsey, the poet laureate of the Northeast Kingdom

Offered by: Representatives Young of Glover, Strong of Albany, and Lefebvre of Newark

Offered by: Senators Rodgers and Starr

Whereas, born in Barton and raised on his family's dairy farm in South Albany, Leland Kinsey, a seventh-generation Vermonter, whose Scottish ancestors were among the early settlers of the towns of Albany, Craftsbury, Glover, and Greensboro, was the unofficial poet laureate of the Northeast Kingdom, and

Whereas, he was educated at Craftsbury Academy, where he met his wife, Lesley; Lake Region Union High School, where the Northeast Kingdom novelist Howard Frank Mosher, later a close friend, was his honors English teacher; the University of Vermont; and finally Syracuse University, where Leland Kinsey earned a masters' degree in writing, and

Whereas, eschewing a full-time out-of-state position in academia, Leland Kinsey returned home to Barton, and

Whereas, Leland Kinsey devoted part of his life to working in myriad occupations, as is true for many of his neighbors, such as carpentry, farming, Morgan horse training, logging, sugarmaking, and teaching astronomy and birding, and

Whereas, these jobs, however, did not prevent him from a prolific career as a poet whose work was published in eight volumes, and he participated in the Vermont Arts Council's Artists in Schools program, teaching poetry to students at more than 100 high schools, and

Whereas, Leland Kinsey's writing was hardly esoteric as he mused mostly about the beauty, challenges, joy, and realities of living in the Northeast Kingdom as well as conveying thoughts on his Scottish heritage, and

Whereas, among his published compilations are *Family Drives*, *The Immigrant's Contract* (a book length narrative), *Not One Man's Work*, *Winter Ready*, and most recently *Galvanized: New and Selected Poetry*, and his final posthumous volume, *The Long Correspondence*, is scheduled for publication this April, and

Whereas, Leland Kinsey, who wrote with great style and poetic mastery and truly loved his Northeast Kingdom home, died at 66 years of age on September 14, 2016 in his native Barton, and his survivors include his wife, Lesley, his best friend for 51 years; four children; and three grandchildren, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly extends its deepest sympathies to the family of Leland Kinsey, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the members of Leland Kinsey's family.