

# State of Vermont House of Representatives



Montpelier, Vermont

## Concurrent House Resolution

H.C.R. 408

House concurrent resolution in memory of Vermont folklorist Gregory L. Sharrow

Offered by: Representative McCormack of Burlington

Whereas, Greg Sharrow was a folklorist of the first magnitude who, for nearly three decades, was a staff member and inspired leader at the Vermont Folklife Center in Middlebury, a nonprofit educational organization, and

Whereas, he graduated from Oberlin College in Ohio and earned a master's degree in education from the University of Vermont, and

Whereas, his passion for teaching resulted in his employment as a faculty member at the Braintree Elementary School, and

Whereas, Greg Sharrow was honored as the 1983 Orange Southwest Supervisory Union Teacher of the Year, and

Whereas, his fascination with cultural studies, and especially their historical aspects, led to his enrollment as a doctoral student at the University of Pennsylvania, where he was appointed a Mellon Graduate Fellow and earned a PhD in Folklore and Folklife, and

Whereas, Greg Sharrow's academic background served as the foundation for his career at the Vermont Folklife Center in Middlebury, where he was much beloved and served as the organization's folklorist, director of education, and co-executive director, and

Whereas, Greg Sharrow conducted field research and worked collaboratively to present the results as part of the center's public programs, documentaries, publications, and exhibitions, and

Whereas, his recognized expertise as a folklorist was drawn upon during his service on grant review panels throughout New England; he was widely published; and he made a special effort to facilitate teaching opportunities for immigrant artists in order that their traditional arts and culture could be passed on to a younger generation, and

Whereas, Greg Sharrow participated in the Smithsonian Institution's Festival of American Folklife and arranged for a group of Barre sculptors to demonstrate their work and interact with visitors on the National Mall, and

Whereas, Greg Sharrow was a 2017 recipient of the Vermont Arts Council's Arthur Williams Award for Meritorious Service to the Arts, and

Whereas, on April 2, 2018, Greg Sharrow succumbed to cancer, dying at home in the presence of his husband, Bob Hooker, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly extends its sincere condolences to the family of Gregory L. Sharrow and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the members of Greg's family and to the Vermont Folklife Center.