

No. R-167. Senate concurrent resolution in memory of Andrea Mead Lawrence.

(S.C.R.23)

By Senators Maynard, Carris, Mullin, Ashe, Ayer, Brock, Campbell, Cummings, Doyle, Giard, Hartwell, Illuzzi, Kitchel, Kittell, Lyons, MacDonald, Mazza, McCormack, Miller, Nitka, Racine, Scott, Sears, Shumlin, Snelling, Starr and White,

By Representatives Smith of Mendon, Andrews of Rutland City, Courcelle of Rutland City, Fagan of Rutland City, Howard of Rutland City, McNeil of Rutland Town, Acinapura of Brandon, Baker of West Rutland, Canfield of Fair Haven, Clarkson of Woodstock, Devereux of Mount Holly, Flory of Pittsford, Frank of Underhill, French of Shrewsbury, Greshin of Warren, Helm of Castleton, Hube of Londonderry, Kitzmiller of Montpelier, Komline of Dorset, Manwaring of Wilmington, Marek of Newfane, Scheuermann of Stowe, Till of Jericho and Wilson of Manchester,

Whereas, the role of American women in international competitive alpine skiing owes much to the pioneering accomplishments of Rutland native and Olympic gold medalist Andrea Mead Lawrence, and

Whereas, her bonding with the mountainous terrain started at an early age when she skied on her many snow days at Pico Peak, the ski area that her parents established, and

Whereas, she was the youngest qualifier for the 1948 United States Olympic ski team and traveled to St. Moritz, Switzerland, and

Whereas, over the next four years, she won many competitions, including the 1951 Arlberg-Kandahar race then considered the unofficial downhill world championship, and

Whereas, at the 1952 Winter Olympics in Oslo, Norway, the United States women's ski team captain Andrea Mead Lawrence was expected to impress

everyone in attendance and had already been featured on the cover of Time Magazine, and

Whereas, Andrea Mead Lawrence did not disappoint anyone as she collected her first gold medal skiing down the icy 1,640-yard precipice that served as the giant slalom course at a pace faster than 44 other skiers from 15 nations, and

Whereas, her feats of skiing magic in Norway were hardly over as she returned to the slopes to win the slalom, combining fourth- and first-place finishes in the two-round event, becoming the first and, 57 years later, still the only American skier to win two gold medals at an Olympics, and

Whereas, she returned home to Rutland where an adoring crowd of 5,000 cheering fans greeted her with the utmost admiration and enthusiasm, and

Whereas, her final Olympic appearance in 1956 in Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy, featured her nearly winning a bronze medal in the slalom competition only four months after the birth of her third child, and

Whereas, Andrea Mead Lawrence had a second and equally fulfilling life as a civic activist and conservationist first in Colorado, where she served on the Aspen planning board, and later in California, where she was elected to and served for 17 years on the Mono County Board of Supervisors, and

Whereas, her concern for the environmental sanctity of the Sierra Nevada Mountains motivated her to help organize the Sierra Nevada Alliance, and she later established the Andrea Lawrence Institute for Mountains and Rivers

which works to integrate “economic and ecological integrity” in the Sierra Nevada Mountains, and

Whereas, the many honors and accolades she received included documentary filmmaker Bud Greenspan’s naming her as the “Greatest Winter Olympian of All Times” and being the first person inducted into the Vermont Ski Museum Hall of Fame, and

Whereas, following her courageous battle against cancer, Andrea Mead Lawrence, whose heart was in California but whose soul was in Vermont, died at her Mammoth Lake, California, home on Tuesday, March 31, 2009, and her survivors include her children, Cortlandt, Matthew, Deirdre, Leslie and Quentin, and four grandchildren, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly expresses its condolences to the family of United States Winter Olympian and conservationist Andrea Mead Lawrence, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to her family, to the Vermont Ski Museum, and to the Andrea Lawrence Institute for Mountains and Rivers.