

No. R-181. House concurrent resolution in memory of Margaret Jean George of Montpelier.

(H.C.R.126)

Offered by: Representatives Kitzmiller of Montpelier and Hooper of Montpelier

Offered by: Senators Doyle, Cummings and Scott

Whereas, Margaret (Margot) George of Montpelier lived her life almost exclusively in her cherished native city, and she described herself as “all about local,” and

Whereas, she attended Boston College and graduated from Vermont College, and

Whereas, as assistant to the director of the Vermont Historical Society, she helped guide preparation and implementation of the 1976 U.S. Bicentennial celebration in Montpelier, and

Whereas, she was a cofounder of the Montpelier Heritage Group, a nonprofit group whose mission is to “prevent and educate against demolition of historic properties and ‘modernizing’ their exteriors,” and, under its rubric, she created an incredibly successful preservation effort to revive the historic Montpelier cityscape, and

Whereas, as part of Montpelier’s celebration in 1992 of its own centennial, Margot George and the Montpelier Heritage Group created a parade float titled “Cleaning the Windows of the City” that was placed on the back of a 1926 restored Model T pickup, to announce that the Heritage Group was cleaning

windows and installing curtains in vacant rooms on the upper floors of buildings in the city's downtown, and

Whereas, Margot George was an early member of Montpelier on the Move, with a mission to improve the capital city's business climate, and

Whereas, for many years, Margot George led history walking tours of the city on Saturdays, and she was instrumental in the Montpelier Heritage Group's publication of two walking tour books and a series of walking tour pamphlets which remain in print for distribution, and

Whereas, a local radio talk show host referred to Margot George as the "Czarina of Downtown" in recognition of her efforts to save Montpelier's historic character, and

Whereas, she applied her knowledge and skills to her service on the Montpelier Design Review Committee, of which she was chair at the time of her death, and as a member of the Montpelier Historic Preservation Commission, and

Whereas, Margot George developed a successful career as a respected realtor, and most recently was the principal of Coldwell Banker Classic Properties, and

Whereas, she and her partner, John Russell, were the owners of the Thrush Tavern Building, and they were immersed in a project to bring back its interior so well-known to Montpelier residents and the political establishment, and

Whereas, on December 17, 2008, Margot George died, leaving many friends and admirers in her hometown, and the local newspaper, the Montpelier Bridge, eulogized her in an affectionate tribute as “an example to us all” and remarked on “her tenacity that gave no ground to anyone or any proposal that would chip away at the city’s historic integrity,” now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors the life and considerable accomplishments of Margaret Jean George for her work and dedication to improve the quality of the historic cityscape of the capital city and the capitol complex district, for its residents, workforce and visitors, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to John Russell in Montpelier, Helen George Cameron Everson of Tralee, Ireland, and the city of Montpelier planning and development department.