

**No. R-365. House concurrent resolution in memory of Linda Ralph and honoring her proprietorship of the Danby Four Corners Store.**

(H.C.R.266)

Offered by: Representatives Komline of Dorset and Olsen of Jamaica

Whereas, Linda Coburn was the oldest in a family of seven children that included siblings Marty, Billie, Kathy, Carol, Mary, and David, and

Whereas, her family had owned the historic Danby Four Corners Store since the 1970s and proudly continued this ownership until the family closed the store, seemingly forever, in 2009, and

Whereas, her sister, Marty, and, earlier, her mother, Margaret, had served as the store's owners, and

Whereas, Linda Coburn married Butch Ralph, and their two children are Harry and Judy, and

Whereas, starting in the middle 1980s, Linda and Butch Ralph assumed joint managerial responsibility of the Danby Four Corners Store, and

Whereas, their joint management was truly a business partnership of equals, and Linda developed a reputation as a shrewd businesswoman who effectively and successfully continued the family's role of providing Danby residents an unusually broad variety of goods for purchase even by the standards of a Vermont general store, and

Whereas, among the items available for purchase at Danby Four Corners Store were groceries, beer and wine, gas and kerosene, ammunition, soft-serve ice cream, clothing, stringed musical instruments such as Martin guitars,

banjos, and fiddles along with guitar strings, snowsuits, and boots, including LaCrosse and Sorel brands as well as western riding boots and the belts to accompany them, and

Whereas, most appealingly for local youngsters, the Danby Four Corners Store was one of the last places where penny candy could still be admired and purchased as it sat on the oak and glass-enclosed counters, and

Whereas, the Danby Four Corners Store was also a department of fish and wildlife agency for the sale of hunting and fishing licenses and served as the local video rental center, and

Whereas, the Ralph family, including Linda, Butch, their son Harry, and friends Tom Griffith and Steve Thurston enjoyed a musical camaraderie as members of a country and bluegrass band, “Family and Friends,” that often played at local benefit concerts, and

Whereas, Linda Ralph was a woman of boundless energy and generosity who baked birthday cakes for local residents who lived alone and created Easter baskets for families that could not afford to purchase them for their children, and

Whereas, Linda Ralph died of pancreatic cancer on December 18, 2008, and a family tradition that had lasted over three decades ended when the Ralph family shuttered the Danby Four Corners Store in 2009, and

Whereas, her family members and many friends miss Linda Ralph and her vibrant role in Danby, and

Whereas, the Danby community has been excited to learn of plans to revive the Danby Four Corners Store under new ownership, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly expresses its condolences on the death of Linda Ralph and recognizes her family's long and successful proprietorship of the Danby Four Corners Store, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Butch Ralph and Margaret Coburn in Danby.