

No. R-401. House concurrent resolution honoring book artist Lucy Swope of West Fairlee.

(H.C.R.246)

Offered by: Representatives Copeland-Hanzas of Bradford, Conquest of Newbury and Masland of Thetford

Whereas, Lucy Swope is an award-winning poet, exhibited artist, teacher, and farmer who for many years worked in volunteer and professional support for persons with special needs, and

Whereas, after studying at Sarah Lawrence College and the University of New Mexico, as well as residing on a Navajo reservation for six years, Lucy Swope graduated summa cum laude from the University of Wisconsin at Green Bay with a double major in art and creative writing, and later advanced her creative writing skills in Goddard College's Master of Fine Arts program, and

Whereas, a turning point in her life occurred in 1976 when she discovered a Hamilton handpress at the University of Vermont and, with financial support from the Vermont Council on the Arts, produced a book of poetry entitled *In Celebration*, and

Whereas, Lucy Swope's purchase of a platen press from a local high school, where she was an artist in residence, enabled her to explore the special craft of book-artistry, and

Whereas, Lucy Swope established the Elizabeth Farm Press in Ryegate, in honor of the farm that her husband, retired University of Vermont Professor Stan Yarian, and she worked together, and when they relocated to West Fairlee, she renamed her press the Lucky Dog Press, and

Whereas, she publishes hand-size books ideal for children that are typically printed: in editions of 100, on thick paper, with type large enough for children to read, with perfection bindings, and topped off with covers derived from fine wallpaper, and

Whereas, Lucy Swope takes personal responsibility for her books' artwork and text, and she creates storyboards to assess a story's flow and symmetry as it moves from one page to the next, and

Whereas, the primary protagonists in many of her books are frequently animals which have been central to her life as a farmer, and

Whereas, among her delightful titles exploring the animal world is *The Story of I-Am-A-Dragon*, the first book printed on her platen press, which relates a tale her four-year-old son told her four decades ago, and

Whereas, other animal-related titles Lucy Swope has published include *Lucky Dog!*, *Tutu the House Lamb*, *Turkeys Aren't Just for Thanksgiving*, and most recently, *The Mighty Zo Dog*, as well as books with human characters such as *The Girl Who Loved to Draw* and *The Handsome Mr. Lincoln*, and

Whereas, in 2011, Lucy Swope turns 75, which marks a personal milestone in her life, and this will be a wonderful occasion to recognize her accomplishments, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors Lucy Swope for her unique and meaningful contributions to Vermont's artistic, cultural, and literary life, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Lucy Swope in West Fairlee.