

No. R-402. House concurrent resolution celebrating the 25th anniversary of the inauguration of Vermont's first woman governor, Madeleine May Kunin.

(H.C.R.252)

Offered by: Representatives Howard of Rutland City, Ancel of Calais, Andrews of Rutland City, Aswad of Burlington, Atkins of Winooski, Bohi of Hartford, Botzow of Pownal, Branagan of Georgia, Bray of New Haven, Cheney of Norwich, Clarkson of Woodstock, Condon of Colchester, Copeland-Hanzas of Bradford, Deen of Westminster, Donovan of Burlington, Emmons of Springfield, Frank of Underhill, French of Randolph, Greshin of Warren, Head of South Burlington, Hooper of Montpelier, Howrigan of Fairfield, Jewett of Ripton, Kitzmiller of Montpelier, Leriche of Hardwick, Lippert of Hinesburg, Lorber of Burlington, Macaig of Williston, Maier of Middlebury, Malcolm of Pawlet, Manwaring of Wilmington, Martin of Wolcott, Masland of Thetford, Miller of Shaftsbury, Mook of Bennington, Moran of Wardsboro, Nuovo of Middlebury, O'Brien of Richmond, Obuchowski of Rockingham, Partridge of Windham, Poirier of Barre City, Potter of Clarendon, Pugh of South Burlington, Sharpe of Bristol, Smith of Mendon, Smith of Morristown, Spengler of Colchester, Stevens of Waterbury, Stevens of Shoreham, Sweaney of Windsor, Taylor of Barre City, Toll of Danville, Townsend of Randolph, Wilson of Manchester, Wizowaty of Burlington, Young of St. Albans City and Zuckerman of Burlington

Whereas, in 1940, when Madeleine May and her family fled her native Switzerland for the United States to escape the looming Nazi threat to their lives, no one could have envisioned that she would become Vermont's governor and ultimately return to Switzerland as the American ambassador, and

Whereas, her family settled in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, and she graduated from the University of Massachusetts in Amherst, and

Whereas, Madeleine May earned a graduate degree in journalism at Columbia University and moved to Vermont, where she reported for the Burlington Free Press, and

Whereas, she subsequently earned a master's degree from the University of Vermont's program for state and local government, and

Whereas, after marrying Dr. Arthur Kunin and starting to raise a family, she became interested in neighborhood issues and in 1972 ran for the House of Representatives, and

Whereas, her legislative skills earned the respect of her colleagues, and in 1977, house Speaker Timothy J. O'Connor, Jr., appointed Madeleine May Kunin chair of the house committee on appropriations, and

Whereas, in 1978, Madeleine May Kunin ran successfully for lieutenant governor, becoming only the second woman to reach this Vermont office and the first to be reelected, and

Whereas, her service as lieutenant governor served as critical preparation for the highest state office, and in 1984, Madeleine May Kunin became the first woman elected governor of the state of Vermont, and

Whereas, during her three terms in this prestigious office, she brought other Vermont women to prominent roles in state government, and

Whereas, Governor Kunin placed special focus on issues pertaining to education, families, and health care, including initiating Dr. Dynasaur, and to the natural environment, promoting the creation of the Vermont Housing and Conservation Trust, and

Whereas, Madeleine May Kunin played a leading role in the 1992 presidential election campaign of Bill Clinton, and

Whereas, President Clinton appointed Madeleine May Kunin as deputy secretary of education, and her success on the domestic policy scene served as a prelude to her appointment in 1996 as the U.S. ambassador to Switzerland, and

Whereas, as ambassador, aside from working to continue the warm relations between the two nations, Madeleine May Kunin was instrumental in convincing the government of Switzerland to account for the financial assets that had been confiscated during World War II from Jewish families, including those of her own family, and

Whereas, Madeleine May Kunin has authored several books, including most recently *Pearls, Politics and Power: How Women Can Win and Lead*, and has taught at institutions of higher education, and

Whereas, 2010 marks the silver anniversary of Madeleine May Kunin's inauguration as Vermont's first woman governor, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly celebrates the 25th anniversary of the inauguration of Governor Madeleine May Kunin, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Governor Madeleine May Kunin.