

**No. R-447. House concurrent resolution in memory of Mark Richard Skakel.**

(H.C.R.329)

Offered by: Representatives French of Shrewsbury, Howard of Rutland City, Bissonnette of Winooski, Cheney of Norwich, Conquest of Newbury, Courcelle of Rutland City, Evans of Essex, Frank of Underhill, French of Randolph, Gilbert of Fairfax, Head of South Burlington, Heath of Westford, Howrigan of Fairfield, Jewett of Ripton, Lenos of Shelburne, Macaig of Williston, Malcolm of Pawlet, Marek of Newfane, Martin of Wolcott, Milkey of Brattleboro, Miller of Shaftsbury, Minter of Waterbury, Mrowicki of Putney, Pellett of Chester, Peltz of Woodbury, Potter of Clarendon, Sweaney of Windsor and Young of St. Albans City

Offered by: Senators Carris, Flory and Mullin

Whereas, Mark Skakel was an admired and respected community leader continuously trying to improve the lives of those around him, and

Whereas, he was the treasured mentor of the forestry students at the Stafford Technical Center in Rutland, where, during the past decade, he had redesigned the program's curriculum, and

Whereas, a core element of his teaching was to work with his students on community forestry projects, and

Whereas, Mark Skakel earned forestry degrees at Paul Smith College and the University of Vermont and spent over two decades working as a professional forester until turning to his true passion, which was teaching, and

Whereas, Mark Skakel, while a resident of Wallingford and later of Shrewsbury, had served on each municipality's selectboard, and

Whereas, as vice chair of the Rutland County Democratic Committee, he included on the party's official agenda the nonpolitical activity of conducting service project visits to the Rutland Open Door Mission, and

Whereas, his desire to protect Vermont's open space and create affordable housing was manifested in his service on the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, and he had recently been invited to join the board of the Nature Conservancy of Vermont, and

Whereas, Mark Skakel cogently expressed his thoughts on Vermont's landscape in columns published in the *Sunday Rutland Herald* and the *Sunday Times Argus*, and

Whereas, if all this activity were not sufficient for one lifetime, Mark Skakel served as president of the Chaffee Arts Center at the pivotal time when it inaugurated year-round exhibits, and

Whereas, Mark Skakel had been hiking the Long Trail last summer and loved to kayak, and

Whereas, on Saturday March 27, while working in the woods, which were his second home, Mark Skakel died suddenly at the age of 56, leaving his beloved wife Jane, daughters Katherine and Eliza, a stepson Will, his brother George, and sisters Susan, Kathleen, Polly and Ellen, and

Whereas, his family, numerous friends, and students will celebrate his life that was filled with generosity at a community memorial service, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly expresses its profound condolences to the family of Mark Skakel, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Jane Skakel in Rutland Town and to Mark Skakel's daughters, stepson, brother, and sisters.