

No. R-507. House concurrent resolution in memory of Mildred Ellen Orton.

(H.C.R.371)

Offered by: Representative Olsen of Jamaica, Wilson of Manchester, Obuchowski of Rockingham, Partridge of Windham and Stevens of Shoreham

Offered by: Senators Campbell, McCormack, Nitka, Hartwell, Sears, Shumlin and White

Whereas, Mildred Wilcox was born in 1911 on her family's farm outside Manchester, and

Whereas, Mildred Wilcox graduated as a member of the Burr & Burton Seminary (Academy) class of 1928, and in 2008 attended her 80th reunion with her son, Lyman, and

Whereas, she continued her education at the Rutland Business College and subsequently found employment at Tuttle Publishing Company, where she met her future husband, Vrest Orton, whom she married in 1936, and

Whereas, Mildred and Vrest Orton settled in the town of Weston where she assumed the presidency of the legislatively chartered Farrar Park Association that is charged with overseeing the picturesque Weston village green, and

Whereas, she retained this role for many decades and kept an extremely careful watch over the green's beauty and integrity, and

Whereas, Mildred Orton, along with her husband, was a pioneering entrepreneur who, in 1946, established the Vermont Country Store as a home-based mail order business, and

Whereas, while her husband sought out merchandise to sell and wrote and printed the catalogue, Mildred Orton was responsible for the business' finances, correspondence, and order processing, and she continued as the Vermont Country Store's bookkeeper for three decades, and

Whereas, the Vermont Country Store is now an internationally respected retail business with stores in Weston and Rockingham, as well as substantial mail order and Internet sales, and it remains an Orton family business, and

Whereas, as an enthusiastic proponent of a diet consisting of healthy natural foods, Mildred Orton wrote the book *Cooking with Wholegrains* that was published in 1947 and was filled with recipes that used exclusively stone-ground grains, and

Whereas, her many other community interests included serving on the board of the Wilder Library for which she contributed the funds to build a children's room in memory of her son, Jeremy, and

Whereas, musically talented, Mildred Orton had been the organist at the Church on the Hill and at the Kinhaven Music Camp where she inspired the young musicians, and she continued playing the piano her entire life, and

Whereas, on February 8, she joyfully celebrated her 99th birthday at the Vermont Country Store with her son, Lyman, grandsons Cabot, Gardner, and Eliot, and year-old great-grandson, Leo, in attendance, and

Whereas, this matriarch of the Orton family and beloved citizen of Weston, who continued to make regular visits to the Vermont Country Store, died on

May 6 after living a memorable life filled with family, friends, and a wide range of business, civic, and religious activities, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly extends its condolences to the family of Mildred Ellen Orton, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to her son, to each of her grandsons, and to the Vermont Country Store.