

No. R-9. Senate concurrent resolution in memory of Secretary of the Senate David A. Gibson.

(S.C.R.1)

By All Members of the Senate,

By All Members of the House,

Whereas, respect for the parliamentary integrity of the Vermont Senate, concurrent with an intimate acquaintance with the intricacies of Mason's Manual of Parliamentary Procedure and the Permanent Rules of the Vermont Senate, are fundamental prerequisites for service as Secretary of that august legislative chamber, and

Whereas, for the past decade, Brattleboro native David Gibson served with great distinction as the Secretary of the Vermont Senate, immediately succeeding his brother, Robert, who served from 1967–1999, and following in the footsteps of his father, Ernest Jr., who held this position from 1933–1940, and

Whereas, David Gibson was scholastically well suited to perform this parliamentary role, having graduated from Yale University and the University of Virginia Law School, and

Whereas, as a Vermont State Senator representing the Windham District for three terms starting in 1977, David Gibson developed a great love for the institution that transcended partisanship and the immediate issues of the day, and

Whereas, when presented the opportunity to continue his family's notable tradition of state service as Vermont Senate Secretary, David Gibson accepted the challenge, bringing a special affection for his job to the State House each day, and

Whereas, his parliamentary equanimity and nonpartisanship won praise from all senators who quickly came to respect his fair judgment and expertise, and

Whereas, David Gibson's prior duties as editor-in-chief of the University of Virginia Law Review enabled him to scrutinize each comma and semicolon that passed across his desk and render a wise judgment on their survival in Senate documents and publications, and

Whereas, a strong advocate for advancing the Vermont Legislature, and especially the Senate, into the 21st century, while adhering to historic institutional customs and traditions, David Gibson persuaded the General Assembly to approve the installation of a new computerized document management system that has greatly expedited the editing and publishing of legislative calendars and journals and simultaneously enabled the Senate Secretary to record roll call votes digitally, and

Whereas, he greatly facilitated the General Assembly's adoption of new joint rules that streamlined the adoption of commemorative resolutions and authorized their bicameral sponsorship, and

Whereas, nationally, David Gibson was an active and enthusiastic participant in the American Society of Legislative Clerks and Secretaries and was a primary organizer of the society's 2007 national convention which took place in Vermont, and

Whereas, aside from his legislative duties, David Gibson's legal and public service career had included serving as Windham County State's Attorney and First Assistant United States Attorney for Vermont, on the State Board of Education and the Judicial Conduct Board, and as one of Vermont's Uniform Law Commissioners, a role he especially enjoyed, and

Whereas, David Gibson worked intently on the Vermont Senate's behalf until shortly before his untimely death on August 16, 2010, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly expresses its profound condolences to the family of David A. Gibson, including his dear and special friend, Nancy Beasley; his children, Mark, and his wife, Nickie; Michael, and his wife, Jean; Dorothy; and Katharine; his grandchildren, David, Halle, Zennon, Jennifer, Emily, Kelsey, and Kimberly; his brother, retired Vermont Supreme Court Justice Ernest Gibson III, and his wife, Charlotte; and his sister, Grace G. Newcomer, on the passing of the Vermont Senate's cherished Secretary, extraordinary parliamentarian, true friend, and champion, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the members of the family of David Gibson.