

No. R-25. House concurrent resolution honoring John T. Stoodley on his amazing journey to umpiring the 2010 College Softball World Series.

(H.C.R.16)

Offered by: Representatives Obuchowski of Rockingham, Partridge of Windham, Deen of Westminster and Mrowicki of Putney

Whereas as a successful Babe Ruth League player, John Stoodley gained essential preparation for his first umpiring assignment, a sudden request to officiate at a Babe Ruth League game in Alstead, New Hampshire, and

Whereas, this unexpected introduction to the science or, in the opinion of some baseball experts, the art of umpiring started a career that has thrived despite the most unimaginable interruption, and

Whereas, the Alstead, New Hampshire, Babe Ruth League immediately recognized John Stoodley's talents, and he was repeatedly selected to serve as one of its annual title game's umpires, and

Whereas, John Stoodley advanced from officiating at teenagers' baseball games to adults' when he umpired games in the Chester and Springfield men's league, and

Whereas, his introduction to the closely related sport of softball began with John Stoodley's 1992 certification to umpire high school games, and

Whereas, proving proficient as a high school softball umpire, just three years later, he was working on the college level starting with the America East and Little America conferences, and

Whereas, in 1999, John Stoodley's umpiring career achieved a new prominence when he called balls and strikes at his first collegiate postseason contest, and by 2002 he was officiating at NCAA regional tournaments, and

Whereas, his success as a college softball umpire could have been permanently stymied in 2008 when, while he was umpiring a softball game at the University of Michigan, a foul ball struck John Stoodley, resulting in his being dispatched to the university's hospital for a mandatory medical examination, and

Whereas, while examining his head, the doctors detected and confirmed the presence of an unrelated lemon-sized tumor in his nerve sheath that had become attached to his brain, and

Whereas, upon his return to New England, John Stoodley underwent 14 hours of meticulous surgery at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center to remove the tumor, and two weeks later the surgeons issued a cautious but optimistic prognosis, and

Whereas, during an assignment in 2009 supposedly only to supervise the umpires at a tournament in Florida, John Stoodley ended up successfully working a game on the field, which proved an emotionally exhilarating and satisfying experience, and

Whereas, in 2010, John Stoodley's standing as a top-ranking collegiate softball umpire was confirmed when he was awarded the most coveted of all

assignments, umpiring in the College Softball World Series in Oklahoma City,
and

Whereas, John Stoodley's perseverance and resilience have enabled him to
continue a truly inspiring and remarkable career as a college softball umpire,
now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors John T. Stoodley on his amazing
journey to umpiring the 2010 College Softball World Series, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this
resolution to John Stoodley in Bellows Falls.