

**No. R-61. House concurrent resolution honoring Shaftsbury town clerk Judith Stratton and resident Florence Beebe for their comprehensive cataloguing and historical annotating of veterans' grave sites in Shaftsbury**

(H.C.R.46)

Offered by: Representative Miller of Shaftsbury

Offered by: Senators Sears and Hartwell

Whereas, the men and women who serve in our nation's armed forces frequently make life-altering sacrifices that can result in permanent injuries and sadly, on occasion, even death, and

Whereas, all of Vermont's military veterans deserve lasting recognition when they are laid to their eternal rest, and

Whereas, as a final homage to their military service, some Vermont veterans are buried in a designated veterans cemetery, but many others, including those interred in the cemeteries located in the town of Shaftsbury, are not, and

Whereas, Shaftsbury town clerk Judith Stratton and local resident Florence Beebe embarked on an ultimately five-year-long volunteer project to catalogue each veteran's grave located in the community's cemeteries, and

Whereas, the project, initially intended to identify all grave sites' occupants in Shaftsbury, assumed a special and intensive focus on veterans buried in the cemeteries' plots after the tally of veterans proved more numerous than anticipated, and

Whereas, the women created an on-site recognition of each interred veteran with the placement of a flag by the grave, and

Whereas, through diligent research, in an endeavor they described as a labor of love, they sought genealogical and military service information on each veteran, and the lives of these deceased military personnel became more vivid and directly connected to the town of Shaftsbury, and

Whereas, in addition to new records surveying all of the cemetery plots in Shaftsbury, three files now exist, documenting Shaftsbury's interred veterans: one comprehensive in scope that includes a picture of each veteran's grave site, and two war-specific files, one for the Revolutionary War and one for the Civil War, and

Whereas, all of this information, both narrative and pictorial, is on permanent deposit in the office of the Shaftsbury town clerk and serves as a major historical resource for the town, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors Shaftsbury town clerk Judith Stratton and resident Florence Beebe for their comprehensive cataloguing and historical annotating of veterans' grave sites in Shaftsbury, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to each of the women honored.