

No. R.104. House concurrent resolution honoring Ted's Barber Shop in Manchester.

(H.C.R.77)

Offered by: Representatives Olsen of Jamaica and Wilson of Manchester

Offered by: Senators Hartwell and Sears

Whereas, the old fashioned barbershops, whose barbers cut their customers' hair without flourishes, are not as common as in 1967 when Ted Lewis, one of 18 children in a Poultney family, opened a no-frills barbershop in Manchester, and

Whereas, while he was awaiting a ship assignment in New York City as a 19-year-old United States Navy enlistee during World War II, Ted Lewis's naval superiors apprenticed him to two local barbers to learn this practical trade, and

Whereas, by war's end, he was an experienced barber, having eventually been assigned to the naval transport ship U.S.S. Arlington, and

Whereas, following his military discharge, Ted Lewis returned to Vermont and began to earn his living as a civilian barber, and

Whereas, beginning in 1967, Ted Lewis started practicing his well-honed barbering skills in Manchester, and

Whereas, Ted's Barber Shop, located near the infamous Malfunction Junction, officially the intersection of Vermont routes 11 and 30, is an approximately 125-square-foot space that is shaped as a trapezoid and contains two barber's chairs and other essential barbershop accoutrements, and

Whereas, a special feature of the shop is the large window display of containers of Vermont maple syrup for sale, an item that originated with Ted Lewis's often-stated axiom that "it's good to have something going on the side," and

Whereas, at Ted's Barber Shop, a good haircut can still be obtained for \$11, a real bargain in 2011, and

Whereas, the individuals sitting in the chairs at Ted's Barber Shop are not necessarily paying customers waiting for a haircut, and

Whereas, among the regular guests are retired farm-worker Honker Stewart, who will offer an unexpected observation with no prompting, Chuck Blackmer, who speaks in a voice reminiscent of a John Wayne sidekick, Ray Weeks, the shoulder-length-hair weather man, George Stone, the General Electric retiree who is a budding songwriter, and other memorable personalities, and

Whereas, although Ted Lewis died in 2006, his daughter Glenda Zimmer and granddaughters have maintained the ambiance and traditions that Ted Lewis established, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors Ted's Barber Shop in Manchester, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Ted's Barber Shop in Manchester.