

No. R-115. House concurrent resolution honoring Frederick Henry Webster of Coventry as a truly venerable Vermonter.

(H.C.R.65)

Offered by: Representatives Marcotte of Coventry, Batchelor of Derby, Higley of Lowell, Kilmartin of Newport City, Lewis of Derby, Strong of Albany and Young of Albany

Offered by: Senators Illuzzi and Starr

Whereas, since his birth on February 25, 1921, Coventry native Frederick Webster has lived a true Vermont life, and

Whereas, after graduating from Orleans High School as class valedictorian, Frederick Webster departed for the University of Vermont, establishing a school men's cross-country running record while earning his degree, and

Whereas, his pedagogic career started at Hinesburg High School, and with World War II raging, he soon enlisted in the United States Navy, and

Whereas, in 1945, Frederick Webster was deployed to China and in 1984, the Taiwanese government presented him the SACO (Sino-American Cooperative Organization) Medal, and

Whereas, back in Vermont, Frederick Webster resumed teaching, first at BFA-St. Albans and, after several intermediate stops, at his alma mater Orleans High School and ultimately at Lake Region Union High School, and he served a term as president of the Vermont Teachers' Association, and

Whereas, as a working farmer, he owned farms in Fairfield and Hinesburg, the town where he served as a tax collector and overseer of the poor and worked as a local sheriff, and

Whereas, in 1966, as a now-single father of eight, he returned to Coventry, moving into the renovated one-room schoolhouse which he had attended as a young child, and in 1972 he purchased his family's farm from his parents, a decision that would later prove decisive, and

Whereas, Frederick Webster served his faith as a church deacon, and

Whereas, beginning in 1985, Frederick Webster began devoting his time to gathering and preserving a huge collection of 1,500 pieces of antique farm equipment, now located in reconstructed barns that were moved to his family farm, and he oversees the collection from a specially built construction shop that his children refer to as the glass house, and

Whereas, Frederick Webster and his antiques have appeared in parades, he has welcomed many school groups to tour his Rural History site, and he has documented his collection on over 200 hours of videotape, and

Whereas, on Saturday, February 26, 2011, his family and friends will gather to celebrate the life of Frederick Webster, Coventry's own preservationist extraordinaire, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors Frederick Henry Webster of Coventry as a truly venerable Vermonter, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Frederick Webster in Coventry.