

No. R-175. House concurrent resolution in memory of Henry Blanchette.

(H.C.R.90)

Offered by: Representatives Jerman of Essex, Sharpe of Bristol, Atkins of Winooski, Evans of Essex, Myers of Essex and Waite-Simpson of Essex

Whereas, a lifelong resident of Essex Junction, Henry Blanchette was a kind-spirited husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and great-great-grandfather and an energetic athlete whose love of individual and competitive sports endured through a lifetime, and

Whereas, a World War II United States Navy veteran, this popular local citizen was honored decades later in 2007 with his appointment as the Grand Marshall of the Memorial Day Parade, and

Whereas, when he returned home after his military service, Henry Blanchette accepted a job at the Drury Brickyard, where colleagues remembered his daring handstand atop the company's new smokestack, and

Whereas, Henry Blanchette later was employed for many years at IBM, and

Whereas, he married his first wife, Theresa Stuart, and they were the parents of five children—Jackie, Ron, Betti, Diane, and Donna, and

Whereas, their 28-year happy union ended with Theresa's death in 1974, and

Whereas, soon thereafter, Henry Blanchette met Barbara Thompson, whose spouse had also died, and the two of them became roller-skating partners and ultimately husband and wife for 35 years, and

Whereas, skating was one of Henry Blanchette's passions, and he was perhaps even more adept as a figure skater, and many children in Essex Junction learned their ice-skating skills from him, and

Whereas, basketball was another sport at which he excelled, both as a player on the Golden Rims age 50-plus team at the Sports and Fitness Edge health club and as a team member at nine National Senior Olympic Games, and

Whereas, ballroom dancing was a favorite joint pastime, and he and his wife helped to form a local club to pursue this activity, and

Whereas, Henry Blanchette also enjoyed playing tennis, woodworking, and morning walks with his dog Buzzy, and

Whereas, on February 6, 2011, the active and enthusiastic life of Henry Blanchette ended, and his large family of survivors includes his wife Barbara, five children, four stepchildren, 24 grandchildren, 35 great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly expresses its condolences to the family of Henry Blanchette, and be it further

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