

No. R-273. House concurrent resolution in memory of the former Dean of the House Representative John Francis Murphy of Ludlow.

(H.C.R.205)

Offered by: All Members of the House

Offered by: All Members of the Senate

Whereas, from 1969 to 1998, Representative John Murphy cast a distinctive and influential presence in the Vermont House of Representatives as the member from Ludlow, as an advocate for the labor movement and working Vermonters, and ultimately as the proud Dean of the House, and

Whereas, having been employed for 28 years at the Rutland General Electric plant, he was well acquainted with the daily toil of Vermont manufacturing workers, and he placed their concerns at the pinnacle of his legislative agenda, and

Whereas, this conscientious, politically astute, and widely admired solon had numerous friends, not mere colleagues, on all sides of the political spectrum, and away from the formal floor and committee deliberations, he was affectionately known as “Murph,” and

Whereas, in his long-standing role as Chair of the House Committee on General and Military Affairs, later the Committee on General, Housing and Military Affairs, Representative John Murphy was not only a friend of labor, but, equally crucial for measures he sought to be enacted, a legislative strategist and tactician par excellence, and

Whereas, his fellow legislators valued the member from Ludlow's wise judgment and elected him to the University of Vermont Board of Trustees, and

Whereas, each spring, the Murphy "road-kill" barbecue (actually a euphemism for a far broader menu) was an eagerly anticipated feast where camaraderie and good cheer abounded, and

Whereas, the town of Ludlow was where John Murphy was born in 1923; baptized and years later married to his true love, Florabel, at the Church of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin; graduated from Black River Academy; raised his family; served as President of the Ludlow Planning Board; established the local chapter of the Knights of Columbus; and presided as the barbecue master at countless charitable fundraisers, often attired in his familiar white paper bag chef's hat; it was the community he joyfully called home for 88 years, and

Whereas, Representative John Murphy was instrumental, with the support of the Ottauquechee Land Trust, in the transformation of the Boy Scout camp on Echo Lake into Camp Plymouth State Park that thousands of Vermonters and visitors to the state now enjoy each summer, and

Whereas, after he officially "retired" from the House in 1998, John Murphy was appointed to the Motor Vehicle Arbitration Board and remained in contact with members concerning issues of the day, and

Whereas, the death of Representative John Murphy marks the passing of a public official whose legacy is the protection of the rights of working

Vermonters and his beloved wife, Florabel, son, John Jr., and daughter-in-law, Wanda, two grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, two brothers, and three sisters will miss their special family member, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly fondly remembers one of its own, the former Dean of the House, Representative John Murphy of Ludlow, and be it further

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