

No. R-344. House concurrent resolution in memory of Garry Chalmers Simpson, a master of the cinematic, performing, and television arts.

(H.C.R.274)

Offered by: Representatives O'Sullivan of Burlington, Clark of Vergennes, Lanpher of Vergennes, Lippert of Hinesburg, Nuovo of Middlebury, Ralston of Middlebury, Ram of Burlington and Shand of Weathersfield

Offered by: Senators Ayer, Baruth, Giard and Lyons

Whereas, Garry Simpson graduated with honors in drama and English from Stanford University, performed in summer stock theater in California, and was awarded a scholarship to attend the Neighborhood Playhouse School of the Theatre in New York, and

Whereas, while working at the Globe Shakespearean Company at the 1939 New York World's Fair, he met his future wife, Kathleen McLean, to whom he would be married for 71 years, and

Whereas, Garry Simpson was a pioneer at NBC television, joining the company even before the Federal Communications Commission authorized the company to take to the airwaves, and was a pioneering producer and director of sports, news, and drama telecasts, and

Whereas, aside from television, he worked in film and theater, collaborated on productions with many famous theatrical personalities, and was a guest instructor at the American Theatre Wing, and

Whereas, in 1966, Garry Simpson sought the less hectic life of Vermont and the opportunity to help establish a new educational television system known as

Vermont ETV (now VPT) and served as the station's program director until 1980, and

Whereas, while at Vermont ETV, Garry Simpson earned one of his three Emmy Awards for the 1977 film *The 14th Star*, which he independently wrote, produced, and directed, and

Whereas, after retiring from Vermont ETV, he embarked on an especially enduring cultural legacy, spearheading restoration of the Vergennes Opera House, a goal he achieved with patience and perseverance through his establishment of the Friends of the Vergennes Opera House, and a 1997 Vermont Symphony concert inaugurated the venue as a revived, sparkling new performance space, and

Whereas, after a nearly century-long life's journey, Garry Simpson died in Middlebury at age 97, leaving his wife Kathleen, four children, Carly, Brian, John, and Robin, nine grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren, and a celebration of his life will be held on February 25, most fittingly at the Vergennes Opera House, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly expresses its heartfelt condolences to the family of Garry Simpson, a master of the cinematic, performing, and television arts, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Kathleen Simpson and to each of his children.