

No. R-349. House concurrent resolution in memory of Sister Elizabeth Candon, RSM (Sr. Mary Patrick).

(H.C.R.264)

Offered by: Representatives Pugh of South Burlington, Donovan of Burlington, Bartholomew of Hartland, Bohi of Hartford, Branagan of Georgia, Browning of Arlington, Burke of Brattleboro, Buxton of Tunbridge, Campion of Bennington, Cheney of Norwich, Christie of Hartford, Condon of Colchester, Conquest of Newbury, Corcoran of Bennington, Courcelle of Rutland City, Crawford of Burke, Dakin of Chester, Davis of Washington, Deen of Westminster, Donaghy of Poultney, Donahue of Northfield, Edwards of Brattleboro, Ellis of Waterbury, Emmons of Springfield, Evans of Essex, Frank of Underhill, French of Shrewsbury, French of Randolph, Gilbert of Fairfax, Grad of Moretown, Greshin of Warren, Haas of Rochester, Head of South Burlington, Hebert of Vernon, Helm of Fair Haven, Jerman of Essex, Jewett of Ripton, Kitzmiller of Montpelier, Klein of East Montpelier, Koch of Barre Town, Kupersmith of South Burlington, Lanpher of Vergennes, Lenex of Shelburne, Leriche of Hardwick, Lippert of Hinesburg, Macaig of Williston, Malcolm of Pawlet, Marek of Newfane, Martin of Springfield, Masland of Thetford, McAllister of Highgate, McCullough of Williston, McFaun of Barre Town, Mook of Bennington, Mrowicki of Putney, Nuovo of Middlebury, Olsen of Jamaica, O'Sullivan of Burlington, Partridge of Windham, Pearson of Burlington, Peltz of Woodbury, Potter of Clarendon, Ralston of Middlebury, Ram of Burlington, Russell of Rutland City, Shand of Weathersfield, Sharpe of Bristol, Stevens of Waterbury, Stuart of Brattleboro, Sweaney of Windsor, Till of Jericho, Trieber of Rockingham, Waite-Simpson of Essex, Webb of Shelburne, Wilson of Manchester, Winters of Williamstown, Wizowaty of Burlington, Yantachka of Charlotte and Young of Glover

Offered by: Senators Lyons, Flory, Ashe, Ayer, Baruth, Benning, Brock, Campbell, Carris, Cummings, Doyle, Fox, Galbraith, Giard, Hartwell, Illuzzi, Kitchel, Kittell, MacDonald, Mazza, McCormack, Miller, Mullin, Nitka, Pollina, Sears, Snelling, Starr, Westman and White

Whereas, Sister Elizabeth Candon, RSM (Sr. Mary Patrick) was born in Pittsford into a family ultimately numbering ten siblings and started her education in a one-room schoolhouse, and

Whereas, upon graduating from Pittsford High School, she matriculated at Trinity College in Burlington where her scholarly ambition was fulfilled and her inner spirituality awakened, and

Whereas, after her freshman year, she decided to enter the Sisters of Mercy, but Sister Elizabeth's life was not typical of most nuns' lives, and

Whereas, seeking to advance her own education, Sister Elizabeth studied at Fordham University in New York, earning master's and doctoral degrees in medieval English language and literature, and

Whereas, after graduation, she taught at both Mount Saint Mary Academy and the Cathedral Grammar School, excelling as a teacher, and

Whereas, as a faculty member at Trinity College, Sister Elizabeth taught the works of Chaucer and Shakespeare and for over 50 years would teach at least one course each semester, and

Whereas, Sister Elizabeth was honored to serve for a decade (1966–1976) as president of Trinity College, participated in many civic and educational organizations, especially those advocating women's empowerment, and was the recipient of eight honorary doctoral degrees from Vermont colleges and universities, and

Whereas, Sister Elizabeth broke new ground when she took her heartfelt advocacy for the poor and underprivileged into state government, serving as Governor Richard Snelling's dedicated secretary of the agency of human services from 1977 to 1983, and

Whereas, she then resumed her life at Trinity College as a special assistant to the president and, of course, as a teacher of literary classics, and

Whereas, Sister Elizabeth was a daring woman who at the age of 76 took a rafting trip on the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon, and

Whereas, the Boston Red Sox and New England Patriots had no more devoted a fan than Sister Elizabeth, and she was known to wear red socks to display her loyalty to the men of Fenway, and

Whereas, during the closing months of her life, Sister Elizabeth was heartened to share this special time with her many friends, who brought her much joy until her death at the age of 90 on February 1, 2012, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly expresses its sincere condolences to the many surviving relatives of the esteemed Sister Elizabeth Candon, RSM (Sr. Mary Patrick) and to her religious family of 73 years, the Sisters of Mercy, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to her surviving sister, Margaret Durham, in Poultney and to the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas Northeast Community in Burlington.