

No. R-523. House concurrent resolution in memory of Anne O. Burke.

(H.C.R.407)

Offered by: Committee on Agriculture

Whereas, an advertising executive could not have imagined a more enthusiastic or genuine spokesperson and ambassador for Vermont agriculture than Anne Burke of Berlin, and

Whereas, in 1965, she and her husband, Raymond Burke, established Harvest Hill Farm, where they raised registered Ayrshire cows for dairy and Charolais cattle for beef, and

Whereas, each winter, legislators tested their milking skills at the Vermont Farm Show's "political pull" with an Ayrshire cow that Anne Burke generously lent for the occasion, and

Whereas, in late spring, she would gather some of her best dairy cows and transport them to Dairy Day on the state house lawn, where schoolchildren could get close to the cows and ask questions which Anne Burke delighted in answering, and

Whereas, from these encounters, Anne Burke became known as "the cow lady," a name that ideally suited the unofficial ambassador of dairy farmers to those who had never stepped inside a cow barn, and

Whereas, Anne Burke exhibited her cattle at many fairs and field days, as did her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, including the Caledonia County Fair, the Orleans County Fair, Washington County Field Days, and the Tunbridge World's Fair, and

Whereas, although dairy and beef were her primary agricultural pursuits, Anne Burke was also a maple sugarmaker, an egg seller, and a creator of wreaths, and

Whereas, Anne Burke took enormous pride in being a farmer and in the quality of the products of her labor, and

Whereas, Vermont farmers have lost a most unusual and fondly regarded colleague and friend, and

Whereas, Anne Burke's legacy, the Harvest Hill Farm, will survive her death at age 87 on April 11, 2012, as her husband Raymond and sons Kelly and Brody will continue operating the family's cherished agricultural homestead, and this is a happy prospect for Vermont agriculture, and

Whereas, her other survivors include her daughter, Lyn, 10 grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren, a great-great-grandchild, and her brother Charles and sisters Harriet and Tiny, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly remembers with great fondness Anne Burke of Berlin and extends its sincere condolences to her family, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to her husband and sons and daughter in Berlin.