

No. R-100. House concurrent resolution in memory of Tom Fagan and his role in the establishment of the Rutland Halloween Parade.

(H.C.R.65)

Offered by: Representative Russell of Rutland City

Whereas, Tom Fagan proved that Halloween is not a celebration reserved exclusively for children, and

Whereas, he was a respected *Rutland Herald* reporter, mentor to his more junior newsroom colleagues, and served on occasion as city editor, and

Whereas, Tom Fagan was also known as a prankster who could insert his fun-loving side into the *Herald's* copy, arranging for publication in the paper of humorous and fictional stories and events, and

Whereas, Tom Fagan's unusual avocation as a lover of comic book superheroes reflected both his enjoyment of a good time and a passion for crime-fighting as a newsman who covered the police and city hall beats, and

Whereas, his devotion to the adventures of crime-fighting heroes, their evil nemeses, and the other characters featured on the colorful and graphically illustrated pages of the Marvel and DC comic publications extended far beyond the role of enthusiastic reader and fan, and

Whereas, Tom Fagan was instrumental in organizing the first Rutland Halloween Parade in 1959 and for many years remained associated with this annual festival of ghosts, goblins, and assorted costumed characters, and

Whereas, popular and perhaps informed speculation was rampant that Tom Fagan marched in the parade disguised as one of his favorite comic book characters, and

Whereas, the Rutland Halloween Parade gained national attention as a result of Tom Fagan's success in convincing comic book publishers and authors to promote the parade on their pages and to travel to Rutland and march as their costumed characters, and

Whereas, Tom Fagan made his own appearances in some of these publications as an associate of his favorite fictional personalities, and

Whereas, when he died at age 76 in 2008, Tom Fagan's fellow journalists had fond memories, and he is best memorialized in the continuing vitality of the annual Rutland Halloween Parade, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly remembers Tom Fagan as an outstanding journalist and one of the Rutland Halloween Parade's creators, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the family of Tom Fagan, to the Rutland Recreation and Parks Department, and to the *Rutland Herald*.