

No. R-131. House concurrent resolution in memory of Daniello G. Balón.

(H.C.R.92)

Offered by: Representatives Lenes of Shelburne, Cole of Burlington, Donovan of Burlington, Krowinski of Burlington, McCormack of Burlington, O'Sullivan of Burlington, Rachelson of Burlington, Webb of Shelburne, Wizowaty of Burlington, and Wright of Burlington

Whereas, in response to the increasing racial diversity of its student body, in the fall of 2008, the Burlington School District hired Dan Balón as the Director of Diversity, Education and Engagement, and

Whereas, Dan Balón earned a bachelor's degree at the University of California at Davis, master's and doctoral degrees at the University of Maryland, and at that university served in many roles including Director of Multicultural Involvement and Community Advocacy and taught courses in leadership and cross-cultural dialogue, and

Whereas, in Burlington, Dan Balón was a passionate advocate for improving personal and institutional cultural competency, fostering social justice, and fighting all forms of oppression, a mission that matched his official duties of "recruiting and retaining people of color to city school jobs and providing diversity and equity training," and

Whereas, he was extremely skillful in educating and sensitizing his colleagues about cultural competency and social justice, and

Whereas, Dan Balón brought his exemplary leadership as a diversity educator and facilitator to his work with the We All Belong Program, as a Fletcher Free Library Commissioner, as a board member of the United Way of Chittenden County and the Howard Center, and as a social justice consultant and trainer to companies and nonprofit organizations, and

Whereas, Dan Balón collaborated with the ECHO Lake Aquarium and Science Center on its recent exhibit, "Race: Are We So Different," to foster a community conversation about race in Vermont, and

Whereas, his unexpected death on January 29, 2013 at age 42 brought great sadness to his family, friends, colleagues, and the community at large, and

Whereas, Burlington Mayor Miro Weinberger spoke of Dan Balón's "tireless efforts to make our City an even better place," and

Whereas, his wife Arline Duffy, daughters Emma Rose and Caitlin, parents Melito and Asuncion, and sisters Jennifer and Stephanie have lost a loving husband, father, son, and brother, and Vermont has lost a special leader and advocate for social justice and the development of cultural competency, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly extends its condolences to the family of Daniello G. Balón and to his many friends and colleagues in the Burlington School District, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Arline Duffy in Shelburne, to his parents in Daly City, California, and to the Burlington School District.