

No. R-200. House concurrent resolution in memory of retired Vermont State Police Sgt. Harold Ackerman.

(H.C.R.149)

Offered by: Representatives Quimby of Concord, Fay of St. Johnsbury, Feltus of Lyndon, Higley of Lowell, Johnson of Canaan, Larocque of Barnet, Lawrence of Lyndon, South of St. Johnsbury, Strong of Albany, Terenzini of Rutland Town, and Toll of Danville

Offered by: Senators Benning, Kitchel, Rodgers, and Starr

Whereas, retired Vermont State Police Sgt. Harold Ackerman was a true law enforcement pioneer, and

Whereas, on May 16, 1946, he became a Vermont Highway Patrolman assigned to the Rutland barracks, and

Whereas, the law enforcement authority of the Vermont Highway Patrol was limited to traffic accidents, truck weight enforcement, and speeding tickets, and the county sheriffs oversaw major criminal investigations, and

Whereas, Act 163 of 1947 established the Department of Public Safety and directed the new Department to consolidate law enforcement authority, resulting in the formation of the Vermont State Police, and

Whereas, Harold Ackerman became one of the original 19 State Police troopers, and

Whereas, the transformation in his duties was significant, as he was now investigating major crimes, initially with no specialized training, and

Whereas, Harold Ackerman eventually studied homicide investigation techniques at Harvard Medical School, and

Whereas, at first, the troopers relied on signs posted in gas stations as a notification to call their office, and when the first two-way radio system was installed, Trooper Ackerman needed to drive to the top of Mendon Mountain in order to access the signal from Vermont State Police headquarters in Montpelier, and

Whereas, Harold Ackerman demonstrated his proficiency as a law enforcement professional, was promoted to Trooper First Class, and was put in charge of all of Rutland and Addison Counties, and

Whereas, during his Rutland years, Harold Ackerman gained the nickname "Ace" after solving a Mendon case involving missing lumber, and

Whereas, he later served in White River Junction and eventually in St. Johnsbury, where he served as post commander and retired in 1977, and

Whereas, he was frequently the recipient of commendations for his work, and his most memorable case was the Gibson murder in Newbury, and

Whereas, Sgt. Ace Ackerman, the last surviving original Vermont State Trooper, died in April 2013 in St. Johnsbury at the age of 92 and is survived by his three children, George, Steve, and Robin, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly expresses its condolences to the family of retired Vermont State Police Sgt. Harold Ackerman, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to each of his children and to the Vermont State Police barracks in St. Johnsbury.