

**No. R-321. Senate concurrent resolution in memory of Sister Miriam Ward.**

(S.C.R.47)

By Senators Lyons, Ayer, Baruth, Cummings, MacDonald, Mazza, and Nitka,

*Whereas*, Sister Miriam Ward devoted her life to her religious order, the Sisters of Mercy, religious education, and to the pursuit of international peace and justice, and

*Whereas*, at 17 years of age, Dorothea Irene Ward entered the Sisters of Mercy and professed her final vows as Sister Miriam Ward on August 18, 1945, and

*Whereas*, her higher education began as an undergraduate English major at Trinity College, then continued with a master's degree in theology from Providence College, and ultimately a Ph.D. in religion from the University of Ottawa, and

*Whereas*, she worked as a religious education instructor, both at elementary and secondary schools where her order served as faculty and in local Vermont Roman Catholic parishes, and

*Whereas*, Sister Miriam returned to Trinity College where she was a professor of religious studies, chaired the Religious Studies Department, and established, and then for 24 years directed, Trinity College's annual Biblical Institute, and

*Whereas*, as a writer and activist, Sister Miriam devoted considerable attention to issues of peace and justice in El Salvador, the Middle East, and South Africa, and

*Whereas*, she had recently completed a book for publication, *Behind the Wall: Palestinians Under Occupation*, and

*Whereas*, Sister Miriam was the founder of Vermonters for Middle East Peace, and

*Whereas*, the Association of Arab-American University Graduates and the Palestine Human Rights Committee had honored her, and

*Whereas*, she had been a member of the Vermont Human Rights Delegation to El Salvador and Honduras, and

*Whereas*, in recognition of her many efforts in the cause of peace, Paxi Christi in Burlington presented her its Janet Rogan Peace Award, and

*Whereas*, Sister Miriam Ward died in Burlington on January 14, 2014, and her survivors include her sisters, Ruth and Dolores and her sisters in religion at the Sisters of Mercy, *now therefore be it*

***Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:***

That the General Assembly extends its condolences to the family and religious colleagues of Sister Miriam Ward, *and be it further*

***Resolved:*** That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to each of her sisters and to the Sisters of Mercy Northeast Community in Burlington.