

**No. R-339. House concurrent resolution honoring the New Haven Town moderators.**

(H.C.R.244)

Offered by: Representative Smith of New Haven

Offered by: Senators Ayer and Bray

Whereas, at annual and special town meetings, the voters decide a town's most important financial and policy governance questions, and

Whereas, the success of a town meeting is first and foremost dependent on the town moderator, who must conduct the deliberations drawing on a knowledge of the parliamentary procedures set forth in *Robert's Rules of Order*, and

Whereas, a moderator must not only be conversant in the minutiae contained in this venerable manual, but is expected to apply its precepts equitably and fairly, without showing any bias for or against a citizen or issue, and

Whereas, beyond this technical expertise, the moderator should also possess an innate sense of when to offer a humorous or light-hearted comment, and

Whereas, this special intuitive knowledge is drawn upon to relieve momentary tension, promote civil discourse, and to retain a healthy degree of community camaraderie, and

Whereas, over the decades and centuries, the moderators presiding at New Haven Town Meetings have exhibited their unique personalities while wielding the gavel, and

Whereas, although a New Haven voter may express a personal preference for a specific moderator's style, each of these elected individuals has been willing to assume the challenge and responsibility of overseeing town meeting deliberations, and assuring that decorum and agenda completion are achieved, and

Whereas, the 2013 New Haven Town Meeting Report is dedicated in honor of these wise, and at times brave, citizens, and

Whereas, all of the New Haven Town moderators deserve recognition, and those serving since 1927 have included George C. Everest, Edward S. Dana, William F. Fitts, Clyde D. Hoffnagle, C. Harlan Palmer, Oliver Sprigg, Edward Young, Morris Earle, Douglas Baker, David Pidgeon, and Lanny Smith, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors the Town of New Haven moderators and their dedicated civic service, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the New Haven Town Clerk.