

State of Vermont House of Representatives



Montpelier, Vermont

Concurrent House Resolution

H.C.R. 88

House concurrent resolution honoring Sandy Ware of Brattleboro for her creative leadership as a nursing home activities director

Offered by: Representatives Burke of Brattleboro, Stuart of Brattleboro, and Toleno of Brattleboro

Whereas, recreational leadership has been central to Sandy Ware's life, starting from her teenage years as a Brattleboro Parks and Recreation employee, and

Whereas, Sandy Ware earned a degree in recreational therapy at Greenfield Community College, and

Whereas, her first professional position was at the former Brandon Training School, and she later worked at the Beverly Manor Convalescent Center in Rutland, and

Whereas, Sandy Ware returned to Brattleboro to begin 28 years of employment at Linden Lodge, the Brattleboro Retreat's nursing home, and

Whereas, although she at times directed volunteers and managed the gift shop, Sandy Ware's primary role and true passion was organizing activities for Linden Lodge residents, and

Whereas, her ideas for residents' activities could range from the bold, allowing experimenting with marijuana, which was rejected; the audacious, facilitating balloon rides, a proposal that won management's reluctant approval; and the personally risky, renting a pinball machine from the Mafia, a project for which Sandy Ware took full responsibility, and

Whereas, for the last eight years, Sandy Ware has served as activities director at the Thompson House in Brattleboro, where the desire to live an interesting life, even as a nursing home resident, was her paramount concern, and

Whereas, with this goal in mind, she established the "Dreams Happen" program, in which residents engaged in an activity they wished to experience before they died, such as hanging from a circus trapeze or riding a horse, and

Whereas, among the many group activities Sandy Ware organized were trips to fairs, camping excursions, the Taste of Brattleboro, and staging a small scale version of Strolling of the Heifers, and

Whereas, after a career devoted to making the lives of nursing home residents happier, Sandy Ware has now retired, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors Sandy Ware of Brattleboro for her creative leadership as a nursing home activities director, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Sandy Ware.