

State of Vermont

House of Representatives



Montpelier, Vermont

Concurrent House Resolution

H.C.R. 386

House concurrent resolution in memory of University of Vermont professor and debate coach extraordinaire, Alfred Charles Snider III

Offered by: Representatives Young of Glover, Rachelson of Burlington, Baser of Bristol, Beck of St. Johnsbury, Botzow of Pownal, Branagan of Georgia, Connor of Fairfield, Donovan of Burlington, Evans of Essex, Gonzalez of Winooski, Jerman of Essex, Juskiewicz of Cambridge, Krowinski of Burlington, Lenes of Shelburne, Long of Newfane, McCormack of Burlington, O'Brien of Richmond, Pearson of Burlington, Potter of Clarendon, Pugh of South Burlington, Ram of Burlington, Scheuermann of Stowe, Sweaney of Windsor, Till of Jericho, Toleno of Brattleboro, and Turner of Milton

Offered by: Senators Ashe and Baruth

Whereas, the internationally renowned teacher, scholar, and debate legend, Dr. Alfred “Tuna” Snider, dedicated his life’s work to advancing debate as a pedagogical method crucial to the production of an informed citizenry capable of full participation in the democratic process, and

Whereas, according to a *New York Times* obituary, a young Alfred knew he had found his people when, “in seventh grade, he stumbled onto his school debating team and found his vociferous calling,” and

Whereas, Alfred Snider graduated from Brown University, earned a master’s degree at Emerson College and a doctorate from the University of Kansas, and

Whereas, he served as the Edwin W. Lawrence Professor of Forensics at the University of Vermont for 33 years (1982 to 2015) and guided the Lawrence Debate Union, achieving several national and world championships, and

Whereas, Dr. Snider established the World Debate Institute, attracting debaters and coaches from around the world to the University of Vermont for an intensive summer “boot camp for the brain,” and

Whereas, he authored scores of volumes about debate, writing that “my greatest hope is that my work can be a small part of this greater effort. I see debate growing and prospering around the world,” and

Whereas, Dr. Snider represented the University of Vermont in more than 45 nations, teaching the value of civic discourse and debate, finding special pleasure in visiting emerging democracies, and

Whereas, Dr. “Tuna” served as the faculty advisor to WRUV-FM Radio at the University of Vermont and, for 15 years, hosted his weekly radio shows, “The Reggae Lunch” and “The College of Musical Knowledge,” and

Whereas, he co-founded the Vermont Reggae Festival in 1986, which, for 15 years, enriched the cultural diversity and economy of Vermont, and

Whereas, Dr. Snider hosted nearly 500 episodes of the television program “Flashpoint,” covering relevant political and social issues, and he was named 2008 Director of the Year by Vermont Community Access Media, and

Whereas, the State of Vermont lost a true friend and mentor when Professor Alfred Charles “Tuna” Snider died in December 2015, leaving behind his wife, Bojana Skrt; daughter, Sarah; and two grandsons, Jackson and Levi Green, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly extends its sincere condolences to the family of Alfred Charles Snider III, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to members of Dr. Snider’s family.