

Journal of the House

Friday, January 19, 2024

At nine o'clock and thirty minutes in the forenoon, the Speaker called the House to order.

Devotional Exercises

Devotional exercises were conducted by former Rep. Selene Colburn of Burlington.

Memorial Service

House members rose as the Speaker placed before the House the following names of members of past sessions of the Vermont General Assembly who had passed away recently:

Rep. Edwin H. Amidon, Jr. of Charlotte	Member of the House, Sessions 2001-2004
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Rep. Gerry F. Gossens of Salisbury	Member of the House, Sessions of 1993-1996
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Thereupon, the members of the House held a moment of silence in memory of the deceased members.

Bills Referred to Committee on Appropriations

House bills of the following titles, appearing on the Notice Calendar, carrying appropriations, under House Rule 35(a), were referred to the Committee on Appropriations:

H. 247

House bill, entitled

An act relating to Vermont's adoption of the Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact

H. 543

House bill, entitled

An act relating to Vermont's adoption of the Social Work Licensure Compact

H. 649

House bill, entitled

An act relating to the Vermont Truth and Reconciliation Commission

House Resolution Adopted**H.R. 14**

House resolution, entitled

House resolution in memory of Jarlath O'Neil-Dunne, Director of the Spatial Analysis Laboratory at the University of Vermont

Offered by: Representatives Ode of Burlington and Hooper of Burlington

Whereas, Jarlath O'Neil-Dunne graduated from the University of New Hampshire, earned a master's degree at the University of Vermont, and received certificates in hyperspectral image exploitation and joint GIS operations from the U.S. military's National Geospatial Intelligence College, and

Whereas, as a U.S. Marine, he served in East Africa, the Middle East, and East Asia; achieved the rank of major; and codirected the Marines' imagery intelligence assets during Operation Iraqi Freedom, and

Whereas, for the past dozen years, Jarlath O'Neil-Dunne served as the founder and greatly respected Director of the Spatial Analysis Laboratory (SAL) at the University of Vermont's Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources, which facilitates improving the quality of natural and structural landscape decision-making based on assessments of detailed geospatial data, and

Whereas, Jarlath O'Neil-Dunne also held a joint position with the U.S.D.A. Forest Service's Research and Development program, enabling him to serve in a leadership role in the creation of its Urban Tree Canopy protocols and its development of tree assessments for over 80 cities, and

Whereas, as an award-winning mentor, Jarlath O'Neil Dunne supervised students from diverse disciplines who contributed to SAL's innovative research, and

Whereas, through his Unoccupied Aircraft Systems (UAS) team's mapping and documenting of this past year's historic flooding, Jarlath O'Neil-Dunne played a crucial role in the disaster response to the 2023 Vermont flood, and

Whereas, Jarlath O’Neil-Dunne lived his values in biking, regardless of the weather, and he excelled at Nordic skiing, rowing, and Spartan and triathlon activities, and his recent death, due to a heart attack, while Nordic skiing, at 49 years of age, deeply saddened his colleagues, students, many friends, and especially his partner, Julie, his children, and his mother, now therefore be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives:

That this legislative body extends its sincere condolences to the family of Jarlath O’Neil-Dunne, and be it further

Resolved: That the Clerk of the House be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the family of Jarlath O’Neil-Dunne and to the Spatial Analysis Laboratory at the University of Vermont.

Was read and adopted.

Remarks Journalized

On motion of **Rep. Small of Winooski**, the following remarks by **Rep. McGill of Bridport** were ordered printed in the Journal:

“Madam Speaker:

Last year this body, along with our colleagues in the Senate, passed a historic child care bill and positive outcomes are already being realized throughout our State. Though it did not receive as much fanfare, we also funded the Snelling Center for Government’s Early Childhood Leadership Institute that had closed in the early months of the pandemic. As we begin to see more and more high-quality child care spots open up all over Vermont, this institute helps to ensure we have the leaders ready and committed to continuous improvement of our early education systems.

It is my great honor to introduce the Fellows of the Snelling Center’s Early Childhood Leadership Institute. They are here today, learning about the arc of policy and the role we, as legislators, play in improving the lives of children, families, and communities. The Snelling Center and the Fellows are so grateful to the Legislature for appropriating funding for the Institute in 2024.

It is an honor, not only because of the number of Addison County residents that are represented in this cohort, many who played pivotal roles in my own life and the lives of my community members, but because this year’s cohort is dedicated to the memory of my dear big sister, Mariah McGill.

Mariah worked tirelessly to improve the lives of children and families. In addition to being the former director of the Early Childhood institute at the time they made the tough decision to close as COVID spread through our State and nation, she worked as a field manager for Let’s Grow Kids and in their

early years was one of their first volunteer parent organizers and, at the time of her death, she was a regional director for Building Bright Futures, where she was tasked with identifying gaps and developing strategies to improve the well-being of children and their families. My family still struggles with this monumental loss and we are so appreciative to the childcare community for continuing to honor her dedication to Vermont's youngest residents and keeping her memory alive."

**Committee Relieved of Consideration and
Bill Committed to Other Committee**

H. 626

Rep. Durfee of Shaftsbury moved that the Committee on Agriculture, Food Resiliency, and Forestry be relieved of House bill, entitled

An act relating to animal welfare

And that the bill be committed to the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs, which was agreed to.

**Committee Relieved of Consideration and
Bill Committed to Other Committee**

H. 577

Rep. Emmons of Springfield moved that the Committee on Corrections and Institutions be relieved of House bill, entitled

An act relating to providing legal assistance to the Access Board

And that the bill be committed to the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs, which was agreed to.

Adjournment

At ten o'clock and four minutes in the forenoon, on motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the House adjourned until Tuesday, January 23, 2024, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, pursuant to the provisions of J.R.S. 37.

Message from the Senate No. 8

A message was received from the Senate by Ms. Gradel, its Assistant Secretary, as follows:

Madam Speaker:

I am directed to inform the House that:

The Senate has on its part passed Senate bill of the following title:

S. 160. An act relating to State education property taxes and flood-related damage.

In the passage of which the concurrence of the House is requested.

The Senate has on its part adopted concurrent resolutions originating in the House of the following titles:

H.C.R. 136. House concurrent resolution recognizing February 2024 as School Board Recognition Month in Vermont.

H.C.R. 137. House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2023 Georgia Elementary and Middle School Chargers seventh- and eighth-grade girls' soccer team on completing an outstanding, undefeated season.

H.C.R. 138. House concurrent resolution commemorating the centennial of the Vermont State Parks.

H.C.R. 139. House concurrent resolution commemorating the bicentennial of Mt. Anthony Masonic Lodge No. 13.

H.C.R. 140. House concurrent resolution in memory of former Representative John C. Candon of Norwich.

H.C.R. 141. House concurrent resolution honoring Director of Elections and Campaign Finance Will Senning for his superb public service.

Concurrent Resolutions Adopted

The following concurrent resolutions, having been placed on the Consent Calendar on the preceding legislative day, and no member having requested floor consideration as provided by Rule 16b of the Joint Rules of the Senate and House of Representatives, are hereby adopted on the part of the House:

H.C.R. 136

House concurrent resolution recognizing February 2024 as School Board Recognition Month in Vermont

H.C.R. 137

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2023 Georgia Elementary and Middle School Chargers seventh- and eighth-grade girls' soccer team on completing an outstanding, undefeated season

H.C.R. 138

House concurrent resolution commemorating the centennial of the Vermont State Parks

H.C.R. 139

House concurrent resolution commemorating the bicentennial of Mt. Anthony Masonic Lodge No. 13

H.C.R. 140

House concurrent resolution in memory of former Representative John C. Candon of Norwich

H.C.R. 141

House concurrent resolution honoring Director of Elections and Campaign Finance Will Senning for his superb public service

[The full text of the concurrent resolutions appeared in the House Calendar Addendum on the preceding legislative day and will appear in the Public Acts and Resolves of the 2024 Adjourned Session.]