

NO. R-26. HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION IN MEMORY OF FORMER
REPRESENTATIVE MICHAEL FLAHERTY OF SOUTH BURLINGTON.

(H.C.R.16)

Offered by: Representatives Audette of S. Burlington, Geier of S. Burlington, Head of S. Burlington, Pugh of S. Burlington, Aswad of Burlington, Atkins of Winooski, Baker of West Rutland, Bissonnette of Winooski, Brennan of Colchester, Donovan of Burlington, Emmons of Springfield, Flory of Pittsford, Howrigan of Fairfield, Hube of Londonderry, Hubert of Milton, Jerman of Essex, Kitzmiller of Montpelier, Larocque of Barnet, Masland of Thetford, McDonald of Berlin, Myers of Essex, Nease of Johnson, Obuchowski of Rockingham, O'Donnell of Vernon, Shand of Weathersfield, Sharpe of Bristol, Taylor of Barre City, Turner of Milton and Zenie of Colchester

Whereas, Michael Flaherty devoted many years to serving his home city of South Burlington, Chittenden County, and the state of Vermont, and

Whereas, for a quarter of a century, he served honorably as a member of the South Burlington City Council, and his council colleagues selected him as their chair from 1991 to 1994, and

Whereas, the city of South Burlington benefited from Michael Flaherty's service on its Zoning and Planning Commission, and

Whereas, Michael Flaherty developed a special interest in both air and surface transportation issues, and

Whereas, with respect to aeronautical matters, he served on Governor Kunin's Commission on Burlington Airport, and he represented the city of South Burlington on and as chair of the airport's board of directors, and

Whereas, his experience in surface transportation policy included serving on both the Chittenden County Light Rail Committee and the Greater Burlington Transit Study, and

Whereas, Michael Flaherty brought his knowledge of municipal government to the state level when he served on the board of directors of the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, Inc., and, in 1982, he was honored to serve on the organization's steering committee and as its president, and

Whereas, in 1994, local voters decided that Mike Flaherty's knowledge of his community made him an ideal person to represent them in the Vermont House of Representatives, and they elected him for the first of three consecutive state legislative terms, and

Whereas, the house's leadership recognized that his past experience and knowledge should be put to good use, and he sat on the house committee on transportation throughout his entire legislative tenure in Montpelier, and

Whereas, Michael Flaherty was an independent political thinker, and when he disagreed with the political direction of his fellow Democrats in the house, he spearheaded the formation of the fiscally conservative Blue Dogs, who strove to introduce an alternative public policy perspective to the Democratic caucus, and

Whereas, regardless of whether his legislative colleagues agreed with his positions on specific issues, they had great respect for his conscientious, hard-working manner and, most importantly, his personal integrity, and

Whereas, Michael Flaherty died on Monday, January 19, 2009, and his public service left a memorable mark on his community and state, and

Whereas, his wife, Paula, children, and grandchildren will miss his presence as a loving husband, father, and grandfather, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly remembers with great respect and fondness former Representative Michael Flaherty of South Burlington as an exemplary citizen, public servant, and member of the general assembly, and be it further

Resolved: That the secretary of state be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Paula Flaherty in South Burlington.