

No. R-320. Senate concurrent resolution in memory of Vermont artist Stephen Huneck of St. Johnsbury.

(S.C.R.39)

By Senators Kitchel, Choate, Campbell, McCormack and Nitka,

By Representatives South of St. Johnsbury, Reis of St. Johnsbury, Toll of Danville, Clarkson of Woodstock, Lawrence of Lyndon and Conquest of Newbury,

Whereas, dogs have long been touted as man's best friend, but in Vermont, there was little doubt that Stephen Huneck was every dog's best friend, and

Whereas, Stephen Huneck was a talented artist and craftsman whose love of canines was expressed colorfully and creatively in a variety of media, and

Whereas, born in Sudbury, Massachusetts, Stephen Huneck resided in St. Johnsbury with his wife, Gwen, and their beloved canine companions, Dottie, a Dalmatian, Molly, a golden retriever, and two black labs, Artie, and the most famous friend, Sally, who starred in several of his books, and

Whereas, a self-taught sculptor, in his well-equipped St. Johnsbury studio, Stephen Huneck maintained over 150 chisels and 30 hand planes and axes and took great pride and satisfaction in hand-carving all of his creations, and

Whereas, Stephen Huneck's focus on canine-inspired art started after his nearly miraculous recovery from Adult Respiratory Distress Syndrome, an often fatal illness, with which he became afflicted in 1994, and

Whereas, shortly before the onset of his illness, he had the idea of creating a series of woodcut prints based on his dog, Sally, and the first woodcut entitled "Life is a Ball" was his personal expression of thanks, and

Whereas, Sally's literary stardom grew as she was the primary character in seven other Stephen Huneck books, including *Sally Goes to the Beach*, *Sally Goes to the Mountains*, *Sally Goes to the Farm*, *Sally Goes to the Vet*, *The Dog Chapel*, *Sally's Snow Adventure*, and most recently *Sally Gets A Job*, and

Whereas, shortly after recovering, Stephen Huneck decided to build a miniature chapel at his Dog Mountain property "that celebrated the spiritual bond we have with our dogs," and

Whereas, the picturesque Dog Chapel is intended as a replica of a Vermont village church dating from around 1820, but with its truly unique steeple topped with a winged lab and the stained-glass windows depicting beautiful images of dogs, it is a sight to behold, and

Whereas, the Dog Chapel's entry sign reads "Welcome all creeds, all breeds. No dogmas allowed," and Huneck was enormously pleased that dogs reacted to their chapel visits as if they were touring Disneyland, and

Whereas, Vermont Public Radio has invited many artists to decorate its fund-raising mugs, but Stephen Huneck's mugs were so whimsical and enjoyable that he was repeatedly asked to create new mug images for the station, and

Whereas, this talented artist, the proprietor of Dog Mountain in St. Johnsbury and a primary gallery in Woodstock, died on January 7, 2010, and his death brought great sadness to his wife, his many fans around the world, and of course dogs everywhere, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly expresses its sincere condolences to Gwen Huneck on the death of her husband, Stephen, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Gwen Huneck at Dog Mountain in St. Johnsbury.