

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

ADDENDUM

TO THE

HOUSE CALENDAR

**Text of House Concurrent
Resolutions**

of

March 15, 2012

Concurrent Resolutions for Adoption Under Joint Rule 16

The following concurrent resolutions will be adopted automatically unless a Representative requests floor consideration before the end of Friday's legislative session. Requests for floor consideration must be communicated to the House Clerk's office.

Resolutions

H.C.R. 292.

House concurrent resolution designating March 12–18 as multiple sclerosis week in Vermont

Offered by: Representatives Krebs of South Hero, Johnson of South Hero, Atkins of Winooski, Bohi of Hartford, Courcelle of Rutland City, Evans of Essex, Fagan of Rutland City, Frank of Underhill, French of Randolph, Howrigan of Fairfield, Jewett of Ripton, Kitzmiller of Montpelier, Kupersmith of South Burlington, Leriche of Hardwick, Lewis of Berlin, Lewis of Derby, Macaig of Williston, Marek of Newfane, Martin of Wolcott, McCullough of Williston, McFaun of Barre Town, Mook of Bennington, Munger of South Burlington, Stevens of Shoreham, Stuart of Brattleboro, Sweaney of Windsor, Townsend of Randolph, Turner of Milton and Zagar of Barnard

Whereas, multiple sclerosis is a chronic, often disabling disease, of the central nervous system that typically strikes in young adulthood, for which there is currently no cure, and

Whereas, multiple sclerosis affects 400,000 people nationwide, including 8,000-10,000 children and teenagers, and

Whereas, over 1,600 individuals in Vermont have multiple sclerosis, one of the highest per-capita rates in the nation, and

Whereas, there is conclusive evidence of an increased incidence of multiple sclerosis in returning veterans of the Gulf War, and

Whereas, the National Multiple Sclerosis Society is a driving force for multiple sclerosis research that is directed at both establishing preventive and treatment measures and discovering a cure, and

Whereas, the Greater New England Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society educates, supports, and advocates for afflicted individuals and their families, assists them in maintaining the highest possible quality of life, and encourages these individuals, as well as health professionals and other concerned citizens, to join the movement to advocate for policy change in the priority areas of quality health care, including broader and more comprehensive health insurance coverage, improved long-term care, and increased recognition of disability rights, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly designates the week of March 12–18, 2012 as Multiple Sclerosis Week in Vermont, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Greater New England Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society in Waltham, Massachusetts.

H.C.R. 293.

House concurrent resolution honoring Montpelier city clerk and treasurer Charlotte Hoyt for her outstanding public service

Offered by: Representatives Hooper of Montpelier and Kitzmiller of Montpelier

Offered by: Senators Cummings, Doyle and Pollina

Whereas, for 40 years, Charlotte Hoyt has performed her duties as a Montpelier city employee with unquestionable personal integrity, and

Whereas, she began her municipal employment at the public works department and subsequently joined the city clerk's staff in a payroll and accounts payable position, and

Whereas, when the opportunity arose in 1975, Charlotte Hoyt assumed a new role as assistant city clerk, and her responsibilities included participation in all matters under the city clerk's purview, and

Whereas, during the ensuing 16 years, she earned a reputation as a conscientious employee who carefully reviewed every detail of her work with great care, and

Whereas, in 1991, a new challenge presented itself when Charlotte Hoyt decided to stand for election as the Montpelier city clerk and bring her intimate knowledge of this office's duties to the forefront, and

Whereas, with her first election as city clerk, Charlotte Hoyt also assumed the role of city treasurer and the financial oversight that it entails, and

Whereas, for the last 21 years, her conscientiousness has been beyond dispute as Charlotte Hoyt was known to work nights, weekends, and holidays as needed to assure that tasks were completed promptly and within the legally required time frames, and

Whereas, Montpelier City Manager William Fraser has enthusiastically praised Charlotte Hoyt's industriousness and overall job performance as have her office colleagues, and

Whereas, after 21 successful years as the Montpelier city clerk and treasurer, Charlotte Hoyt has decided not to seek reelection, although she will continue to serve as city treasurer at least until June 30, and

Whereas, Charlotte Hoyt looks forward to being at her family's camp in Colchester with her family, including her husband, former Montpelier police chief Douglas Hoyt, and her grandchildren, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors Montpelier city clerk and treasurer Charlotte Hoyt for her outstanding public service, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Charlotte Hoyt in Montpelier.

H.C.R. 294.

House concurrent resolution honoring and thanking the individuals, institutions, and organizations who lent their assistance so generously during and after Tropical Storm Irene

Offered by: All Members of the House

Offered by: All Members of the Senate

Whereas, Tropical Storm Irene had an impact on the lives of thousands of Vermonters with both immediate and continuing consequences, and

Whereas, one of the primary victims of Tropical Storm Irene's unwelcomed foray into Vermont was the state office complex in Waterbury, home to the agencies of human services and of natural resources, the department of public safety, and the Vermont State Hospital, and approximately 1,600 state employees, and

Whereas, the rain-swollen Winooski River overflowed its banks at historic levels, precipitating massive flooding on the Waterbury campus, and forcing the state to confront an emergency situation demanding immediate decisions that had significant consequences, and

Whereas, employees of the Vermont State Hospital shuttled patients to alternative care facilities as far away as the Brattleboro Retreat, and

Whereas, under the calm and professional leadership of Vermont State Police Captain Chris Reinfurt, in consultation with Commissioner of Public Safety, Keith Flynn, and Secretary of Administration, Jeb Spaulding, the decision was quickly made and implemented to relocate the emergency management center to the temporary FEMA office in Burlington whose federal personnel were of enormous help throughout the state, and

Whereas, despite the moving of the center at the worst possible moment, the outstanding Vermont Emergency Management staff was able to provide exemplary support throughout Irene's onslaught, and

Whereas, the displaced state employees in some instances worked from home and were eventually scattered to nearly 40 sites in Chittenden and

Washington Counties where they continue to keep state government functioning, and

Whereas, the Agency of Transportation's tally of state-owned transportation infrastructure damaged in Irene's rampage was 146 roads and 34 bridges, totaling 531.77 miles of highway and 2,260 locally owned road segments, and 289 municipal bridges sustained varying degrees of impairment, and

Whereas, the dedicated and exhaustive work of the 700 Vermont transportation personnel enabled the state of Vermont to make passable all but 13 miles of state-owned roads and 28 of the 34 state bridges by early October, and

Whereas, on one of the most devastated roads, Route 107 in Stockbridge, an unbelievably intensive reconstruction work plan condensed 10 years' worth of planning time into six weeks, and a year's worth of construction into a few months, enabling the highway to reopen before the end of 2011, and

Whereas, in order to return the state highway and bridge system to a working, if not ideal, condition as quickly as possible, 20 New Hampshire Department of Transportation personnel and 349 Maine Department of Transportation workers spent several weeks working beside their Vermont colleagues, and

Whereas, innumerable municipal employees worked far more hours than normal to assist the citizens of their affected communities, and

Whereas, special recognition should be paid to the municipal employees and local officials, many of them volunteers, of the many towns that were directly affected, and

Whereas, neighboring towns worked cooperatively in partnership, such as Jamaica and Londonderry; Stratton, Winhall, and Weston; Duxbury and Waterbury; and Rutland and the towns to the immediate east, to address emergency situations and tackle mutual problems in the most effective way, and

Whereas, any legislative resolution recognizing the round-the-clock efforts of municipal employees must pay special tribute to Michael Garofano Sr. and his son, Michael Jr., who sacrificed their lives attempting to preserve the operation of the Rutland city water system, and

Whereas, the role of the National Guard during the post-storm weeks was truly incredible, and this special contingent of individuals included 700 members of the Vermont National Guard and approximately 200 members of the Maine National Guard, who brought with them 169 pieces of heavy engineering equipment, and

Whereas, additional National Guard personnel and equipment soon arrived from Connecticut, Illinois, New Hampshire, Ohio, South Carolina, Virginia,

and West Virginia, including eight National Guard helicopters (Blackhawks and Chinooks) from New Hampshire and Illinois, and

Whereas, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) established a headquarters in Vermont to process claims for financial assistance for individuals whose property was damaged or destroyed due to Tropical Storm Irene or the late spring flooding, and

Whereas, FEMA accepted 8,418 registrations, and 4,035 individuals and families were approved by December 30 for housing assistance, and

Whereas, overall, with respect to federal financial disaster assistance in 2011: \$23.1 million in federal assistance grants was approved for families and individuals; \$18 million was obligated for public assistance funding for four 2011 federal disasters, including Tropical Storm Irene and the spring flooding; \$31.2 million was authorized for United States Small Business Administration low-interest loans, including \$18.8 million in home loans and \$12.4 million in business loans, for a grand total of \$72 million in federal financial support, and

Whereas, the University of Vermont assisted in numerous ways following Tropical Storm Irene, including the UVM Extension which assessed farm damage and needs, delivered emergency feed and bedding, vaccinated animals, developed fact sheets on handling flooded corn and silage, provided free mycotoxin testing and offered crop and financial planning support, and the College of Agriculture and Life Science worked in conjunction with UVM Extension on many projects; sponsoring three days of service for Irene relief, including on Saturday, October 22, 2011, when over 80 UVM students, faculty, and staff participated in the VT Clean Up Day; and of the four persons who organized VT Response, two are current UVM students, a third a recent alum, and the fourth a student at Champlain College, and

Whereas, the Vermont and New Hampshire Valley American Red Cross operated 13 emergency shelters in the days following the storm and reached out directly to assist the many families who were isolated in the storm's aftermath, and

Whereas, many Vermont utility company customers lost power at some point as the storm cut a swath through the state, including Central Vermont Public Service (CVPS), 73,000; Green Mountain Power Company (GMPC), 40,000; Vermont Electric Cooperative, 10,000; and the Washington Electric Cooperative, 1,200; and Vermonters in some locations also lost landline telephone service, and

Whereas, the storm did not merely disconnect residential and commercial customers but also destroyed long-standing utility rights-of-way, forcing the relocation of the routes transmission lines must travel, and

Whereas, the utilities reacted quickly and decisively to tackle the storm damage as CVPS fielded the largest workforce in the company's history, and GMP effectively doubled its crews' members in the field, and FairPoint Communications, VTel, and Waitsfield and Champlain Valley Telecom each mobilized crews to restore landline telephone service as quickly as possible, and

Whereas, the assistance of colleagues from out-of-state utilities proved invaluable in the process to complete the urgent job of restoring power, and

Whereas, many students from Castleton State College volunteering in the Rutland area, cadets from Norwich University assisting in Northfield, and Long Trail Patrol members from the Green Mountain Club lending a hand in Waterbury and Duxbury as well as southern Vermont were all part of the volunteer effort, and

Whereas, despite the challenge of a severely damaged headquarters, on Wales Street in Rutland, Salvation Army Rutland Commander Major Charles Balcom swiftly acted on the imperative of placing disaster relief assistance in the forefront, and

Whereas, the Salvation Army in Rutland arranged for alternative space at the former Smith Buick GMC site on South Main Street where it opened a flood recovery center, and this alternative location served as a distribution center for clothing, furniture, household goods, and food, and volunteers, including students from the College of St. Joseph who assisted the Salvation Army personnel in this essential mission, and

Whereas, Vermonters from all walks of life responded with a generosity and kindness to their fellow neighbors in need through direct action and financial contributions to emergency relief funds, and this response was best summarized in a letter from a Virginia National Guardsman to the *Rutland Herald & Times Argus*, writing "From the first day and the first plate of brownies, the local community has been so supportive, thankful and generous that we were all in awe," now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors and thanks the individuals, institutions, and organizations who lent their assistance so generously during and after Tropical Storm Irene.

H.C.R. 295.

House concurrent resolution congratulating Emery Tillman of Cornwall on her kayaking accomplishments

Offered by: Representative Jewett of Ripton

Whereas, competitive kayaking is a thrilling sport demanding agility, alertness, and the ability to follow a course of complex planned maneuvers while presenting the appearance of spontaneity, and

Whereas, Emery Tillman, originally from New Orleans and now a resident of Cornwall, began her aquatic athletic interests as a young competitive sailor, and

Whereas, at age nine, while attending Camp Songadeewin at Lake Dunmore, she was introduced to kayaking and immediately became enamored of this sport, mastering the maneuver of popping back upright after rolling underwater, and

Whereas, the dramatic elements and social interaction that are part of kayaking convinced Emery Tillman that this was to be the sport on which she would focus, and

Whereas, the summer after attending Camp Songadeewin, she participated in the kayaking program at a North Carolina outdoor center, further improving her skills, and

Whereas, although Emery Tillman stepped back from kayaking for a few years, her passion for the sport continued, and more recently, she attended an intensive multi-week summer training program on the Ottawa River, where she worked with some of the world's top coaches, and

Whereas, while in Canada, she decided to specialize in freestyle kayaking, which requires the kayaker to complete "as many different moves as possible in a 60-second time frame" including the spin (tilting the kayak on one side) and the blunt (a backward move), and

Whereas, Emery Tillman next attended school at the New River Academy in West Virginia, where she could engage in specialized kayak training, and under its auspices she kayaked in Chile and New Zealand, where she plunged intentionally over a 35-foot waterfall, and

Whereas, Emery Tillman was honored to be selected for one of two openings on the United States junior women's national team at a competition held at Glenwood Springs, Colorado, and this accomplishment earned her the right to compete at the upcoming world championships in Thun, Switzerland, and she is working on projects to finance this exciting opportunity, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates Emery Tillman of Cornwall on her kayaking accomplishments, and be it further

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

H.C.R. 296.

House concurrent resolution honoring Elizabeth Benedict for her lifelong commitment to educational excellence

Offered by: Representative Miller of Shaftsbury

Offered by: Senators Hartwell and Sears

Whereas, as a classroom teacher, school administrator, and school board member, Elizabeth Benedict has sought to follow the mission of the Hopkins School with which she was associated for many years, and

Whereas, a highlight of this education mission is developing in young people “a lifelong love of learning,” and

Whereas, Elizabeth Benedict graduated from Vassar College with a degree in mathematics, and

Whereas, her career path led to the Hopkins School in New Haven, Connecticut, a distinguished independent school chartered in 1660, in which she taught mathematics and instilled a love of learning in her pupils, and

Whereas, her supervisors recognized Elizabeth Benedict’s superb teaching skills and in due course appointed her Dean of Students, and

Whereas, concern for the educational upbringing of her two sons in nearby Bethany, Connecticut prompted Elizabeth Benedict to serve on the town’s school board, and

Whereas, upon her retirement and relocation to Shaftsbury, Elizabeth Benedict became a docent at the Bennington Museum and Bennington’s Park-McCullough House, and

Whereas, Elizabeth Benedict’s desire to contribute to the promotion of educational excellence in the Shaftsbury public schools resulted in her running in 2000 as a successful write-in candidate for the Shaftsbury school board, and

Whereas, during her 12-year service on the board, the past five as its effective and respected chairwoman, she was instrumental in establishing the first pre-K program in the Southwest Vermont Supervisory Union, for which she passionately advocated, and

Whereas, Elizabeth Benedict’s work on the board was premised on serving the students and the taxpayers, and she always carefully weighed the fiscal impacts of any proposal or budget, and

Whereas, after a dozen years of outstanding public service as a member of the Shaftsbury school board, Elizabeth Benedict will be concluding her tenure on Town Meeting Day 2012, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors Elizabeth Benedict for her lifelong commitment to educational excellence, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Elizabeth Benedict in Shaftsbury.

H.C.R. 297.

House concurrent resolution honoring Belinda H. Clegg for her outstanding public service to the town of Wolcott

Offered by: Representative Martin of Wolcott

Whereas, certain individuals are best suited to serve their towns in a single capacity while others possess the skill and talent to perform myriad roles competently, enthusiastically, and in the best interest of their respective municipalities, and

Whereas, a wonderful example of a truly multitalented individual is Belinda Clegg of Wolcott who has served her town in diverse roles, each with great success, and

Whereas, Belinda Clegg commenced her tenure as Wolcott's assistant town clerk in April 1990, embarking on a career path that continued for the next 22 years, except for a brief leave when her twins, Derek and Shelby, were born in 1999, and

Whereas, her concern that public education offer the best possible curriculum to students while remaining affordable to the taxpayers motivated her to serve and chair the Wolcott schoolboard, represent Wolcott on the Orleans Southwest Supervisory Union Board, and, in a related role, serve as a member of a team conducting teacher contract negotiations, and

Whereas, as a town lister, she strove to assess properties equitably and without bias, and

Whereas, while serving on the Wolcott Board of Civil Authority, she developed a familiarity with the tax appeal process and the conduct of elections, and

Whereas, Belinda Clegg encouraged healthy lifestyles in her role as the Wolcott wellness coordinator, and she is currently serving as the town's service officer, and

Whereas, in 2008, the Wolcott selectboard presented Belinda Clegg with a certificate of appreciation in which she has been described as a person who “continues to go above and beyond the call of duty, to assist not only the Select Board, Town Highway Department and Fire Department, but our community members as well,” and in which the board expressed its “heartfelt gratitude” for her help in making “Wolcott a more pleasant town to reside in,” and

Whereas, Belinda Clegg is someone who stands for what she believes and can always be relied on to perform her tasks, and as she now moves on to a new career, her expertise and smile will be missed in Wolcott town government, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors Belinda H. Clegg for her outstanding public service to the town of Wolcott and extends best wishes for the future, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Belinda Clegg in Wolcott.

H.C.R. 298.

House concurrent resolution congratulating Marlboro College on its 65th anniversary

Offered by: Representatives Stuart of Brattleboro, Burke of Brattleboro, Deen of Westminster, Edwards of Brattleboro, Hebert of Vernon, Manwaring of Wilmington, Marek of Newfane, Moran of Wardsboro, Mrowicki of Putney, Olsen of Jamaica, Partridge of Windham and Trieber of Rockingham

Offered by: Senators Galbraith and White

Whereas, from both academic and governance perspectives, Marlboro College, located on 300 rural acres in the southern Vermont town of the same name, is one of America’s most creative and innovative institutions of higher education, and

Whereas, established in 1946, Marlboro College’s mission is “to teach students to think clearly and to learn independently,” and

Whereas, this directive is holistically integrated into the students’ academic progression through their selection, in consultation with an academic advisor, of an individualized course of study, and

Whereas, this educational model, relying on student initiative and personal responsibility, climaxes when graduating “seniors complete a self-designed Plan of Concentration that is reviewed by an outsider evaluator,” and

Whereas, the intimate class sizes averaging 10 and educationally conducive student–faculty ratio of 7–1 provide the elements for an intellectual exchange of ideas that would not be viable in a large classroom setting, and

Whereas, in 2005, the National Survey of Student Engagement ranked Marlboro College in the 95th percentile or better in terms of academic challenge, student–faculty interaction, supportive campus environment, and first-year students’ experience of active and collaborative learning, and

Whereas, Marlboro College serves as a springboard for further educational exploration, as 69 percent of the alumni attend graduate school including Harvard, Yale, Columbia, and other leading universities, and

Whereas, Marlboro College governance is centered on monthly town meetings involving students, faculty, and staff, and

Whereas, the learning opportunities at Marlboro are diverse, ranging from ancient Greek and Latin to the latest digital technology advances, and

Whereas, the college has developed Asian learning experiences in China and Cambodia, and

Whereas, the arts are an essential element of life at Marlboro College, with students exploring dance, music, and visual art, and the school features the Rudolph and Irene Serkin Center for the Performing Arts and since 1951 has hosted the renowned independently operated Marlboro Music Festival, and

Whereas, Marlboro College President Ellen McCulloch-Lovell has incorporated her unique combination of cultural and political experience in a dynamic and successful campus leadership tenure, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates Marlboro College on its 65th anniversary, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Marlboro College President Ellen McCulloch-Lovell.

H.C.R. 299.

House concurrent resolution recognizing the outstanding health care services provided by Gifford Medical Center in Randolph

Offered by: Representatives Townsend of Randolph, French of Randolph, Buxton of Tunbridge, Conquest of Newbury, Copeland-Hanzas of Bradford, Davis of Washington, Donahue of Northfield, French of Shrewsbury, Haas of Rochester, Jewett of Ripton and Zagar of Barnard

Offered by: Senator MacDonald

Whereas, Gifford Medical Center has continuously served the health care needs of central Vermont and beyond since 1903, and

Whereas, for the last 12 years, Gifford Medical Center has been the only Vermont hospital to meet its state-approved budget and operating margin, and it has embraced the Vermont Blueprint for Health, and

Whereas, the National Rural Health Association has named Gifford Medical Center one of the Top 100 Critical Access Hospitals in America, and

Whereas, all of the center's primary care practices have been recognized as Patient-Centered Medical Homes by the National Committee for Quality Assurance, and

Whereas, the American College of Nurse-Midwives has named Gifford Medical Center's midwifery practice as a "best practice" in the nation among small-size practices for achieving the highest success rate with vaginal births after cesareans, and the college also awarded Gifford "runner-up best practice" recognition with respect to the lowest rate of low-birth-weight infants and the lowest rate of operative vaginal births (a birth utilizing vacuum or forceps), and

Whereas, the Robin's Nest Child Enrichment Center at Gifford has earned the maximum five "STARS" from the Vermont STep Ahead Recognition System, and it is accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children, and

Whereas, the Menig Extended Care Facility, the Gifford Medical Center's nursing home, has been listed on *U.S. News and World Report's* "Best Nursing Homes" list as one of the 39 best nationally and the only Vermont nursing home on the survey's honor roll, and

Whereas, this superb nursing facility has for seven consecutive years received the Gold Star Employer Award from the department of disabilities, aging and independent living and the Vermont Health Care Association, and

Whereas, Gifford Medical Center is increasingly a hospital of choice for Central Vermonters seeking high-quality care and an employer of choice for some of the region's and even the nation's best health care professionals, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly recognizes the outstanding health care services provided by Gifford Medical Center in Randolph, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Gifford Medical Center in Randolph.

H.C.R. 300.

House concurrent resolution honoring Brattleboro radio station WKVT AM/FM for its outstanding Tropical Storm Irene community support effort

Offered by: Representatives Edwards of Brattleboro, Burke of Brattleboro, Stuart of Brattleboro, Condon of Colchester, Deen of Westminster, Hebert of Vernon, Manwaring of Wilmington, Marek of Newfane, Moran of Wardsboro, Mrowicki of Putney, Olsen of Jamaica, Partridge of Windham and Trieber of Rockingham

Offered by: Senators Galbraith and White

Whereas, during and after the onslaught of Tropical Storm Irene, Brattleboro radio station WKVT (1490 AM and 92.7 FM) responded to the emergency in comprehensive, creative, and helpful ways, and

Whereas, on the morning of August 28, 2011, as Hurricane Irene's torrential rains began to inundate the Brattleboro area, WKVT decided to suspend its regular AM and FM programming and instead to air continuous coverage of storm information, and the station continued this special coverage for 12 hours, and

Whereas, while Jason Gil coordinated coverage from the station's studios, Peter "Fish" Case and Gorty Baldwin ventured into the field, frequently phoning in information on road closures, and they reported from flooded locations including Flat Street, the Brattleboro Farmers Market, West Brattleboro, and the Mountain Home Trailer Park, and

Whereas, the day after the storm, Peter Case established a disaster relief blog on the WKVT website, which in coordination with the Windham Status website posted critical information for digital access, and

Whereas, the station worked with the Vermont National Guard and the Vermont state police (who relied in part on GPS technology and social media) to broadcast the latest news on closed roads and their projected restoration, and

Whereas, Peter Case and his WKVT colleague Steve West loaded the station's vehicle with bottled water and broadcasting equipment and drove one and one-half hours over what is normally a 25-minute route to broadcast live an emergency meeting at the West Dover Elementary School for the many Deerfield Valley citizens for whom it was physically impossible to attend, and

Whereas, in the days after the Dover meeting, WKVT personnel repeatedly drove urgently needed supplies to the Wilmington National Guard Depot and to more rural areas, and

Whereas, post-storm interviews with local, state, and federal officials kept listeners informed, and WKVT conducted an “802 Strong” fundraising drive on behalf of the United Way’s Irene relief fund that raised tens of thousands of dollars, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors Brattleboro radio station WKVT AM/FM for its outstanding Tropical Storm Irene community support effort, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to WKVT in Brattleboro.

H.C.R. 301.

House concurrent resolution honoring the outstanding efforts of those who care for, educate, and advocate for our young children in Vermont

Offered by: Representatives Pugh of South Burlington, Batchelor of Derby, Burditt of West Rutland, Donahue of Northfield, Frank of Underhill, French of Randolph, Haas of Rochester, Krowinski of Burlington, McFaun of Barre Town and Mrowicki of Putney

Offered by: Senator Ayer

Whereas, today’s young children are tomorrow’s voters, workers, taxpayers, and parents, and

Whereas, a good start helps ensure both a child’s and Vermont’s future prosperity, and

Whereas, science tells us that early experiences establish the architecture of a child’s developing brain, and nurturing and individualized interactions with adults—at home and in the community—build a strong foundation for future growth and development, and

Whereas, the quality of early childhood experiences establishes either a sturdy or fragile foundation for all development that follows, and

Whereas, child development is community development as well as economic development, as healthy, capable young children are the building blocks of a solid and productive society, and

Whereas, although 85 percent of a child’s core brain structure is formed by the age of four years, less than nine percent of public investments in education and development is made by that time, and

Whereas, all Vermonters want their young children to grow into solid community members and active participants in our economy, and

Whereas, concerned Vermonters will gather at the state house on March 14, 2012, to discuss with their state legislators increasing accessibility to and affordability for all Vermonters of high-quality early child care, health, and education services, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors the outstanding work of all those who care for, educate, and advocate for our young children in Vermont who are visiting the state house on March 14, 2012, which is Early Childhood Day at the state house, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the sponsoring organizations of the Kids Are Priority One Coalition, including Mama Says, the Vermont Association for the Education of Young Children, the Vermont Child Care Industry and Careers Council, the Vermont Family Network, Voices for Vermont's Children, and the Windham Child Care Association.

H.C.R. 302.

House concurrent resolution in memory of former Representative Mary Shelby Paull

Offered by: Representatives Batchelor of Derby, Kilmartin of Newport City, Marcotte of Coventry, Lewis of Derby, Bouchard of Colchester, Fagan of Rutland City, Hebert of Vernon, Higley of Lowell, Myers of Essex, Pugh of South Burlington, Savage of Swanton and Strong of Albany

Offered by: Senators Illuzzi and Starr

Whereas, Mary Shelby Telford Paull actively and conscientiously served the greater Newport community and the state of Vermont in multiple civic capacities for many decades, and

Whereas, she graduated from Newport High School and attended Burdett College in Boston, and

Whereas, during her life, Mary Paull served on the staff of North Country Union High School, North Country Hospital, the Greater Newport Area Chamber of Commerce, and in more recent years, the Northeastern Vermont Development Association, in which she was actively involved in improving economic opportunities for businesses in the Northeast Kingdom, and

Whereas, Mary Paull's commitment to economic development in the Northeast Kingdom was also expressed through her membership on the Vermont Small Business Region I Advisory Council, the Orleans County

Development Committee, and the North Country Career Center Regional Advisory Board, and

Whereas, her vision of economic prosperity for the Northeast Kingdom and Orleans County in particular included accessibility for private aircraft, and she worked for that objective as a member of the Newport Airport Commission and the Vermont Aviation Council, and

Whereas, she had served as a copresident of the Greater Newport Area Chamber of Commerce and was active for many years in the local Rotary Club, and

Whereas, as an individual focused on the civic well-being and future of Newport City, Mary Paull was a member of the Newport City Charter Committee, and

Whereas, from 1985 to 1988, Mary Paull represented Newport City in the House of Representatives, serving on the committees on commerce and on municipal corporations and elections, and

Whereas, former Representative Paull's political interest prompted her to assume a leadership role in the Vermont Republican Party as its Organizational and Finance Director during her tenure in the House of Representatives, and

Whereas, former Representative Mary Paull died on January 4, 2012 at age 71, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly extends its sincere sympathy to the family of former Representative Mary Paull, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to her son, James Paull.

H.C.R. 303.

House concurrent resolution congratulating the Middlebury Union High School Tigers' 2012 Division II girls' championship Nordic skiing team

Offered by: Representatives Nuovo of Middlebury, Ralston of Middlebury, Jewett of Ripton and Stevens of Shoreham

Whereas, the Middlebury Union High School Tigers girls' Nordic skiing team required alternative training modalities this past winter to accommodate the lack of natural snow, and

Whereas, despite the challenges of training on dry land and on specially created artificial snow, the Middlebury girls were in top form for the annual state championship competition, and

Whereas, the opening freestyle or skate day was skied at Jericho and the classic competition took place at Grafton Ponds, and

Whereas, in Division II girls' competition, a swiftly skiing Tiger won the freestyle day's individually scored race, and the Middlebury relay team completed its multi-segment course in first place, and

Whereas, when the teams reassembled at Grafton Ponds for the second day of racing, the Tigers again proved supreme among the Division II girls, and

Whereas, the classic individual race concluded with Middlebury out in front by a substantial 31 seconds, and also capturing the third, fifth, and ninth place slots, and

Whereas, once again, the relay team proved it was the fastest among the Division II girls' entrants, and

Whereas, when the judges tallied all the scores, the Middlebury Tigers were clearly the proud winners of the 2012 Division II girls Nordic skiing championship, having accumulated only 51 points, nearly 100 points lower than runner-up BFA-Fairfax, and

Whereas, this year's skilled Nordic skiing Tigers included Elise Biette, Britta Clark, Hannah Kraus, Erika-Maria Miska, Haley Olson, Dominique Powers, Emma Ryan, Lydia Allen, Olivia Cacciatore, Anna Caliandro, Kate DaPolito, Nathalie Ingersoll, Sarah Miller, Zoe Parsons, Emily Robinson, Anna Roy, Sophie Ryan, Emily Kiernan, Alexis Ouellette, Michelle Peterson, Dorothy Punderson, and Julia Rosenberg, and several team members were selected to participate in regional competitions, and

Whereas, first year Head Coach Matthew Trueheart and the assistant coach, Kristin Dewey, proved an effective leadership team, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the Middlebury Union High School Tigers' 2012 Division II championship girls' Nordic ski team, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Middlebury Union High School.

S.C.R. 39.

Senate concurrent resolution honoring former Representative and Senator Robert T. Gannett on his 95th birthday

Whereas, Robert (Bob) Gannett's presence graced the General Assembly during his four terms in the House of Representatives as the member from

Brattleboro (1953–1960) and later for ten terms as the senator from Windham County (1973–1992), and

Whereas, when the newly elected Representative Bob Gannett arrived in Montpelier in January 1953, his legal expertise as a respected attorney was acknowledged with his assignment to the Committee on Judiciary, and

Whereas, in 1955, Representative Bob Gannett was appointed to the Committee on Appropriations, and his rapid mastery of budgetary minutiae was a prelude to his service as committee chair during the 1957 and 1959 biennia, and

Whereas, a keen observer of the parliamentary process, in 1957 he served as Speaker Pro Tempore while presiding over the House's deliberations, and

Whereas, near the close of the 1960 Adjourned Session, Representative Bob Gannett's final year in the House of Representatives, his colleagues voted him President of the House of 1959, an organization the members formed for the purpose of holding reunions, and

Whereas, in 1972, the voters of Windham County elected Robert Gannett as their new senator, and he became one of the Senate's most esteemed members, and

Whereas, in his initial senatorial biennium, Senator Bob Gannett sat on the Finance, General and Military, and Highway Traffic committees, and

Whereas, in 1975, he resumed his role as a legislative budget scrutinizer with his appointment as Vice Chair of the Committee on Appropriations, and he subsequently earned the rare distinction of chairing this all-important committee in both the House and the Senate, and

Whereas, the Committee on General and Military Affairs also benefited from his astute leadership as vice chair and chair, and while serving as Chair of the Committee on Institutions, Senator Bob Gannett was a strong advocate, as was his late wife Sarah Alden (Aldie) Derby Gannett, of state financial assistance for the establishment of a permanent corridor for the Long Trail, helping to create a legacy that will endure for generations to come, and

Whereas, during his senatorial career, his committee assignments also included Senate Government Operations, Senate Transportation, and Joint Fiscal, and his wise parliamentary counsel proved invaluable on both the committees on Senate Rules and Joint Rules, and

Whereas, on the morning of Sunday, April 26, 1992, Senator Bob Gannett concluded his long and illustrious legislative service when he offered the final motion of the 1992 Adjourned Session directing that the President of the

Senate appoint a committee to inform the Governor that the Senate was ready to adjourn sine die, and

Whereas, his wealth of common sense, wise judgment, and concern for the well-being of Vermonters was always drawn upon in his decision-making process, and his service in the General Assembly, as an attorney, and in the community at large epitomized the work of a genuine statesman, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors former Representative and Senator Robert T. Gannett on his 95th birthday and extends to him best wishes on this special occasion, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Robert Gannett in Brattleboro.

S.C.R. 40.

Senate concurrent resolution congratulating Ross Connelly and Thomas F. Kearney on their induction into the New England Newspaper Hall of Fame.

Whereas, one of the highest forms of recognition that can be bestowed on a journalist is induction into the New England Newspaper Hall of Fame, and in 2012, two Vermont journalists were so honored, and

Whereas, Ross Connelly, the publisher and editor of the *Hardwick Gazette*, began his journalism career as a writer for the New England Patriots, proceeded to the *Reading (Massachusetts) Daily Times and Chronicle* where he was a sports reporter, wrote a column at the *Holyoke Transcript-Telegram*, and was editor of the *Cape Cod Chronicle*, and

Whereas, in 1986, he and his late wife, Susan Jarzyna, purchased the *Hardwick Gazette* and served as copublishers, and

Whereas, in his acceptance remarks, Ross Connelly paid tribute to his wife, who died in September 2011 after a 10-year fight with cancer and who had worked until two weeks before her death, and

Whereas, Ross Connelly served as president of the Vermont Press Association and the former New England Press Association and is founding chair of the Vermont Coalition for Open Government, and

Whereas, Thomas F. Kearney spent 36 years at the *Keene (New Hampshire) Sentinel* where his first assignment was as a city hall reporter before rising through the ranks, spending 20 years as the executive editor of the *Sentinel* before becoming the managing editor of the *Stowe Reporter* in 2005, and

Whereas, throughout his professional life as a reporter and editor, Thomas F. Kearney has been an ardent defender of the First Amendment and a free press, and his work for this valiant cause has earned him the Yankee Quill Award and the Nackey S. Loeb First Amendment Award, and

Whereas, Thomas F. Kearney has a well deserved reputation as a great mentor for young journalists, as he patiently instructs them in mastering the art as well as the techniques of journalism, and aspiring journalists are known to seek the opportunity to polish their craft under his watchful guidance, and

Whereas, both of these gentlemen are worthy additions to the roster of the New England Newspaper Hall of Fame, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates Ross Connelly and Thomas F. Kearney on their induction into the New England Newspaper Hall of Fame, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Ross Connelly and Thomas F. Kearney.