

State of Vermont

House of Representatives



Montpelier, Vermont

Concurrent House Resolution

H.C.R. 56

House concurrent resolution commending the heroic rescue efforts and sacrifice of Alton Lombard Sr. and also the Vermont State Police for its continuing search for his remains in Lake Champlain

Offered by: Representatives Turner of Milton and Hubert of Milton

Whereas, in 1961, Alton Lombard Sr. was a 24-year old resident of Milton, married to Sally Lombard, already the father of three young children, and his wife was pregnant with their fourth child, and

Whereas, he was an employee of General Electric in Burlington and an amateur scuba diver, and

Whereas, on a February weekend in 1961, two other General Electric employees had gone ice fishing, driving onto Lake Champlain, and they failed to report to work on either the following Monday or Tuesday, and

Whereas, at the time, the Vermont State Police did not have a trained scuba diving team, and it asked Alton Lombard and another scuba diver, Robert Dewyea of North Hero, to conduct a diving search, and

Whereas, after they each had made several unsuccessful dives, Dewyea indicated he was chilled and did not wish to dive further, but Lombard, seeing oil in a nearby ice hole, decided to try one final dive, and

Whereas, Lombard dove, then surfaced; rescuers noticed a major problem with his equipment; they tried unsuccessfully to alert him; and Lombard headed back below the surface, and

Whereas, despite Dewyea's returning to the water, Lombard was never found, and

Whereas, other scuba divers did discover the two deceased GE employees and their sunken car the next day, and

Whereas, Sally Lombard, now Sally Young, has for over half a century hoped that her late husband's remains would be found, and

Whereas, the Vermont State Police has not forgotten the heroic rescue efforts Alton Lombard made on its behalf, and

Whereas, it now boasts a highly trained scuba diving team, under the command of Lt. James Whitcomb, and with recently acquired sophisticated sonar equipment, the search for Alton Lombard Sr. continues, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly commends the heroic 1961 rescue efforts and sacrifice of Alton Lombard Sr. and also the Vermont State Police for its continuing search for his remains in Lake Champlain, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Sally Young in Milton and to Lt. James Whitcomb of the Vermont State Police.