

**No. R-31. House concurrent resolution honoring Frank A. Silfies.**

(H.C.R.15)

Offered by: Representatives Huntley of Cavendish and Sweaney of Windsor

Whereas, first responders encounter persons in physically painful and emotionally stressful conditions, but their own emotional needs are often overlooked, and

Whereas, Frank Silfies' complementary roles as a professional counselor and mental health crisis team supervisor at Health Care & Rehabilitation Services, and as a volunteer Ascutney firefighter, gave him a unique perspective on the stress that first responders may experience, and

Whereas, during his career, Frank Silfies' public safety duties also included several years of part-time service as a Weathersfield police officer and eight years as an EMT with the Weathersfield Ambulance Service, which he directed for two years, and

Whereas, in 1992 Frank Silfies recognized the urgent need for a mental health support network for first responders and cofounded Green Mountain Critical Incident Stress Management (GMCISM), and

Whereas, Frank Silfies was an active and dedicated volunteer counselor at GMCISM, and the first responder community deeply appreciated his personal support, and

Whereas, since being diagnosed four years ago with terminal cancer, his health has deteriorated and took a turn for the worse with the discovery that he had sustained a brain hemorrhage, and

Whereas, seeking to honor and bring joy to a man who had done so much to lift the spirits of the first responder community, Jennifer King and her husband, Tom, the assistant chief of the Corinth Volunteer Fire Department, initiated a plan to create a quilt for Frank Silfies containing tee shirts representing as many regional emergency response teams as possible, and

Whereas, the overwhelming response of his colleagues and strangers who provided major creative and technical assistance at no charge, enabled the dream to become a reality in just weeks, and Jennifer King presented the quilt to Frank Silfies and his wife, SallyAnn, during services at the Greater Hartford United Church of Christ on Sunday, December 28, 2014, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors Frank Silfies for his extraordinary devotion to improving the lives of his fellow first responders and expresses its best wishes to SallyAnn and Frank Silfies on their 51st wedding anniversary, and be it further

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