

**No. R-340. House concurrent resolution honoring Earl Bessette for his community engagement and civic service in the town of New Haven.**

(H.C.R.258)

Offered by: Representative Smith of New Haven

Offered by: Senators Ayer and Bray

Whereas, when Earl Bessette was only a toddler, his father purchased the Elgin Spring Farm in New Haven, and his parents relocated to this Addison County town, and

Whereas, the purchase has proven enduring as the Bessette family's ownership of the farm has continued into a fourth generation, and

Whereas, Earl Bessette raised seven children on the farm, and

Whereas, he became knowledgeable about the town's history, especially with respect to its earlier farmers, and

Whereas, another historical interest of his is local Native American history, and he donated his impressive artifact collection to the town, and

Whereas, storytelling is a special passion for Earl Bessette, and his stories can focus on historical or contemporary people or places, and

Whereas, annually, he publishes a collection of stories, both his own and favorites that others have told, and

Whereas, as a young man, Earl Bessette was an avid trapper, and he sold the hides of the beaver, mink, and muskrat that he trapped, and

Whereas, despite his already busy life, Earl Bessette recognized the importance of serving his community, and

Whereas, he began his continuing tenures as a fence viewer in 1972 and as a grand juror in 1994, and

Whereas, in the 1970s, Earl Bessette was a member of the New Haven Revenue Sharing Committee, and

Whereas, for over 20 years (1976–1999), he performed the electoral administration, tax appeal determination, and other required duties of a justice of the peace, and

Whereas, Earl Bessette's broad knowledge of life in New Haven was appreciated during his five years of service (1990–1995) on the town's selectboard, and

Whereas, in recognition of his service to the community in so many ways, Earl Bessette is being honored with a 2015 New Haven Town Report dedication, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors Earl Bessette for his community engagement and civic service in the town of New Haven, and be it further

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