

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

ADDENDUM

TO THE

HOUSE CALENDAR

**Text of House and Senate
Concurrent Resolutions**

of

January 14, 2016

Concurrent Resolutions for Adoption Under Joint Rule 16

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

Resolutions

H.C.R. 194.

House concurrent resolution designating January 8, 2016 as Martin St. Louis Day

Offered by: Representatives Krebs of South Hero, Beyor of Highgate, Brennan of Colchester, Connor of Fairfield, Deen of Westminster, Hubert of Milton, Jerman of Essex, Lefebvre of Newark, Lewis of Berlin, Macaig of Williston, McCullough of Williston, McFaun of Barre Town, Murphy of Fairfax, and Poirier of Barre City

Whereas, of all the players who have skated in a University of Vermont (UVM) Catamount hockey uniform, Laval, Quebec native Martin St. Louis ranks in a class all his own, and

Whereas, over the course of his 139-game UVM career (1993–1997), Martin St. Louis scored 91 goals, was responsible for 176 assists, and tallied 267 points, a still-standing Catamount scoring record, and

Whereas, as a junior, Martin St. Louis earned the Catamounts' team captaincy, and that season UVM won its first Eastern College Athletic Conference regular season title and appeared in the National Collegiate Athletic Association's (NCAA) Frozen Four hockey championship, and

Whereas, as a senior, Martin St. Louis again led the Catamounts to an NCAA championship tournament berth, and UVM awarded him the J. Edward Donnelly Award as the school's top male senior athlete, and

Whereas, Martin St. Louis was a three-time All American and a repeat contender for the NCAA's prestigious Hobey Baker Award, presented to the nation's top collegiate hockey player, and

Whereas, despite a grueling hockey schedule, Martin St. Louis graduated with a double major, and

Whereas, despite no National Hockey League (NHL) team's drafting him, Martin St. Louis proceeded to play an illustrious 16-season NHL career, scoring 391 goals, executing 642 assists; earning the Art Ross Trophy for NHL

top scorer (twice) and the Hart Memorial Trophy for most valuable player; playing in six NHL All-Star games; and helping lead the 2004 Tampa Bay Lightning to the NHL championship and the Stanley Cup, and

Whereas, in 2007, UVM inducted Martin St. Louis into the university's athletic hall of fame, and, in 2012, the UVM Alumni Association presented him its alumni achievement award, and

Whereas, Martin St. Louis was a member of the 2014 Canadian Olympic championship hockey team, and

Whereas, in 2015, Martin St. Louis retired from the NHL, and the UVM hockey program will honor him, now the proud coach of his three sons' youth hockey teams, at Martin St. Louis Night festivities to be held at Gutterson Fieldhouse on Friday evening, January 8, 2016, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly designates January 8, 2016 as Martin St. Louis Day, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Martin St. Louis.

H.C.R. 195.

House concurrent resolution in memory of former Representative William N. Aswad of Burlington

Offered by: All Members of the House

Whereas, for 18 years, Bill Aswad served with distinction in the Vermont House of Representatives, representing the north end of Burlington, and

Whereas, he earned an engineering degree from Clarkson University, and

Whereas, Bill Aswad's World War II military service in Europe, with the 13th Armored Division, resulted in the U.S. Army's awarding him a bronze star for valor, and post-war, in the U.S. Army Reserve, he rose to the rank of major, and

Whereas, his career at General Electric started in Schenectady, New York as a chemical engineer and, for 35 years, he worked in Burlington, becoming manager of manufacturing engineering, and

Whereas, Bill Aswad's professional accomplishments highlight only one side of his long and active 93-year life, as his public service at all levels of government was a stellar example of personal civic engagement, and

Whereas, planning issues were especially important for Bill Aswad, and

Whereas, he served on and chaired the Burlington Planning Commission and the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission, was president of both the Vermont Association of Planning and Development Agencies and the New England Association of Regional Councils, and sat on the National Association of Regional Council's board of directors, and

Whereas, Bill Aswad's municipal legislative service included chairing the Burlington City Council, and

Whereas, his eloquence as a speaker was demonstrated repeatedly when he offered opening remarks in the House, often focusing on American history, and

Whereas, railroads were Bill Aswad's passion, and he worked tirelessly to reestablish passenger rail service along Vermont's western corridor, and his efforts resulted in major strides toward this goal, and

Whereas, this conscientious public servant died on August 13, 2015, leaving his children, Dana, Marcy, Jon, and Scott, six grandchildren, his siblings, Kal, Sal, and Margaret, and companion, Mary Winn, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly extends its sincere condolences to the family of former Representative William N. Aswad of Burlington, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to members of Bill Aswad's family.

H.C.R. 196.

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2015 Otter Valley Union High School Otters' Division II championship field hockey team

Offered by: Representatives Shaw of Pittsford and Carr of Brandon

Offered by: Senators Collamore, Flory, and Mullin

Whereas, the importance of an alert defense in field hockey was exemplified in the 2015 Division II championship game in Burlington, featuring the second-seeded Otter Valley Union High School Otters and their opponents from Mt. Abraham Union High School, and

Whereas, the Otters scored early in the game and then launched an effective defensive effort, including a dramatic repelling of a potentially tying goal with just over six minutes of playing time remaining, and

Whereas, at the sounding of the game-ending whistle, Otter Valley had clinched an exciting 1-0 victory and the 2015 Division II field hockey championship, its first State title in the sport since 1999, and

Whereas, the thrilled Otters included Kaitlyn Anderson, Myliah McDonough, Courtney Bushey, Chelsea Reed, Allison Lowell, Maia Edmunds, Alyssa Falco, Madison Chicoine, Sophie Markowski, Courtney Randall, Meghan Hallett, Sophia Bloomer, Elizabeth Wright, Gabriela LaGrange, and Kathryn Coolidge, and

Whereas, Coach Stacey Edmunds-Brickell developed a winning strategy that her players appreciated on championship day, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the 2015 Otter Valley Union High School Otters Division II championship field hockey team, and be it further

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

H.C.R. 197.

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2015 Otter Valley Union High School Division III championship football team

Offered by: Representatives Shaw of Pittsford and Carr of Brandon

Offered by: Senators Collamore, Flory, and Mullin

Whereas, having appeared in, but not won, the 2014 Division III football championship game, the Otter Valley Union High School Otters were motivated to go all the way in 2015, and

Whereas, the team remained undefeated throughout the 2015 regular season, and, in Rutland, the Otters faced the talented U-32 Raiders for the Division III crown, and

Whereas, trailing 14–13 early in the third quarter, the Otters then focused intently on scoring, winning the game 33–14 and the 2015 Division III championship, and

Whereas, the Otters had voted senior Jamee Eugair, who has severe cerebral palsy, an honorary team member and had assigned him the coveted number one, and they presented him the championship trophy, and

Whereas, the 2015 Otters included Jamee Eugair, Colby McKay, Jared Felkl, Brent Nickerson, Tyler Rowe, William Ross, Robertas Nielsen, Evan Perry, Matthew Fox, Payson Williams, Tyson Cram, Collin Parker, Jove Bautista, Neiko Young, Daniel Allen, Chandler Corey, Carson Leary, Matthew Harding, Conor Mackie, Marcel Denis, Dustin Manning, Christopher Watkins, Matthew Wedin, Nathan Doty, Chris Waizenegger, Trevor Peduto, Wilson

Worn, Erik Sherman, Sean Martin, Greg Whitney, Tyler Allen, Jeremy Frasier, Robert Cook, Alexander Flanders, and Richard Waite, and

Whereas, Head Coach Jim Hill and assistant coaches Chas Hall, Kipp Denis, James Helak, and Torrey Allard were superb guides for the team, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the 2015 Otter Valley Union High School Division III championship football team, and be it further

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

H.C.R. 198.

House concurrent resolution designating January as National Mentoring Month

Offered by: Representatives Dakin of Chester, Bancroft of Westford, Bissonnette of Winooski, Canfield of Fair Haven, Chesnut-Tangerman of Middletown Springs, Cole of Burlington, Connor of Fairfield, Cupoli of Rutland City, Donahue of Northfield, Fiske of Enosburgh, Jerman of Essex, LaLonde of South Burlington, Lenes of Shelburne, Macaig of Williston, Masland of Thetford, McCoy of Poultney, McCullough of Williston, Morris of Bennington, Morrissey of Bennington, Myers of Essex, Potter of Clarendon, Pugh of South Burlington, Ram of Burlington, Russell of Rutland City, Sibia of Dover, Stevens of Waterbury, Sweaney of Windsor, Tate of Mendon, Townsend of South Burlington, Troiano of Stannard, Willhoit of St. Johnsbury, Wood of Waterbury, and Yantachka of Charlotte

Offered by: Senators Bray and Nitka

Whereas, mentors offer young Vermonters a caring adult friend and role model who can guide them towards healthy life choices, and

Whereas, mentoring before, during, and after school has become an effective strategy for schools to increase student attendance and academic success, including high school graduation and college matriculation rates, and

Whereas, mentored youth are less likely to start using drugs and alcohol or engage in physical violence, and

Whereas, mentored youth also exhibit improved resiliency, better relationships with peers and family members, and feel greater connectedness to their communities, and

Whereas, partnerships among businesses, schools, other youth service organizations, and mentoring programs are an effective way for businesses to support youth within the community, and

Whereas, collaborative mentoring programs, with broad local and statewide business and organizational support, are able to serve more young Vermonters, and

Whereas, according to MENTOR: The National Mentoring Partnership, one in three young Vermonters lacks a formal or natural mentor, and

Whereas, since 2013, Mobius has served as Vermont's Mentoring Partnership and, in collaboration with various mentoring programs and other public and private organizations, is committed to closing the mentoring gap, and

Whereas, since 2002, January has been designated National Mentoring Month, a month-long outreach campaign focusing national attention on the need for mentors, as well as how each of us can work together to increase the number of mentors and ensure brighter futures for young Vermonters, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly designates January as National Mentoring Month in Vermont, and be it further

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

H.C.R. 199.

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2015 Milton High School Yellowjackets Division II girls' soccer championship team

Offered by: Representatives Turner of Milton, Hubert of Milton, Johnson of South Hero, and Krebs of South Hero

Whereas, the top-seeded U-32 Raiders proved no match for the second-seeded Milton Yellowjackets in the 2015 Division II girls' soccer championship game played in South Burlington, and

Whereas, the Yellowjackets' talented strikers and superior speed proved key, and

Whereas, Milton scored the opening goal at 10:17 in the first half, maintained its lead to win the game 3-1, and clinched the 2015 Division II championship, its 13th title, and

Whereas, the victorious Yellowjackets included Kaleigh Goulette, Carlie Reen, Taylor Quintin, Kate Rowley, Adrianna Desranleau, Caitlyn Dabagian, Megan Reilly, Dallas Brodhead, Marisa Sherwood, Jessica Wells, Megan Kilburn, Carmen Shappy, Sydney Shappy, Tatum Shappy, Brooke Caragher, Jonessa Rock, Madison North, Carol Fagan, Katie Desranleau, Madison Chalmers, Katerina Desranleau, and Kelsey Pellitier, and

Whereas, Head Coach Cory Payson, Assistant Coach Danielle Hurley, and Volunteer Coach Elijah Boardman offered instructive direction, and the team's manager Suraya Davis and statistician Brenda Sweeney were always supportive, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the 2015 Milton High School Yellowjackets Division II girls' soccer championship team, and be it further

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

H.C.R. 200.

House concurrent resolution designating January 2016 as School Board Recognition Month in Vermont

Offered by: Representatives Long of Newfane and Sibilis of Dover

Whereas, the elected citizen members of Vermont's school boards are extremely dedicated public servants, and

Whereas, school board members devote countless hours to overseeing all local jurisdictional aspects of public education in Vermont and, at most, receive token monetary compensation, and

Whereas, they tackle education policy issues that are of enormous concern to school administrators, teachers, parents, students, and the citizenry at large, and

Whereas, certain matters confronting school boards may resonate strongly with a specific constituency—for example, whether a particular high school course will be offered or a varsity sport played, and

Whereas, school board members must occasionally decide potentially sensitive and divisive questions, such as whether to continue the tenure of a teacher, principal, or superintendent, and the individual whose job is in question may have both strong supporters and strong opponents, and

Whereas, although they are not the originators of State education laws and administrative directives, these locally selected public officials may experience public criticism regarding Vermont's education policies, and

Whereas, since the passage of Act 46, school board service has become more challenging, as it involves deliberations to determine the future composition of the State's school districts and boards, and

Whereas, in facing these difficult and possibly conflicting demands, school board members receive far too little praise for their public service, and

Whereas, a number of states and local communities throughout the country observe January as School Board Recognition Month in order to honor the special work of school boards, and this honor to Vermont's school boards and their members is well-deserved, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly designates January 2016 as School Board Recognition Month in Vermont, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Vermont School Boards Association in Montpelier.

H.C.R. 201.

House concurrent resolution honoring former Commissioner of Finance and Management James B. Reardon on his exemplary public service on behalf of the State of Vermont

Offered by: All Members of the House

Offered by: All Members of the Senate

Whereas, the Commissioner of Finance and Management, who is Vermont's chief budget officer, has to implement the policy perspectives of the sitting Governor, while acting as a financial steward for State government, and

Whereas, given the political realities associated with this position, it is challenging for any individual, notwithstanding the person's fiscal expertise, to serve in this role for governors of different political parties, and

Whereas, Jim Reardon, a Vermonter with extensive financial management experience, served with distinction as Commissioner of Finance and Management in both the Douglas and Shumlin administrations, and

Whereas, he graduated from Mount Saint Joseph High School in Rutland and Bentley College in Waltham, Massachusetts, earning a degree in accountancy, and

Whereas, Jim Reardon qualified as a certified public accountant, is a member of professional accountancy organizations, and served as an accounting instructor at the Community College of Vermont, and

Whereas, starting in 1986, Jim Reardon used his financial expertise as a public servant working for the State of Vermont, and

Whereas, as the Agency of Human Services' financial operations manager, he developed expertise in budgetary matters and earned the respect of his colleagues, and

Whereas, Jim Reardon's outstanding professional reputation resulted in his appointment as Deputy Commissioner of Finance and Management and ultimately as Commissioner, and

Whereas, Commissioner Reardon worked effectively with legislators of all political parties to assist in crafting a balanced budget, and he was known for working long hours to achieve this important objective, and

Whereas, his peers at the National Association of State Budget Officers honored him for the excellence of his work, and

Whereas, Jim Reardon concluded his outstanding tenure at the Department of Finance and Management in the fall of 2015, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors former Commissioner of Finance and Management James B. Reardon for his exemplary public service on behalf of the State of Vermont, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to James Reardon in Essex Junction.

H.C.R. 202.

House concurrent resolution commemorating the 50th anniversary of the trail system and the 20th anniversary of the museum at Mount Independence

Offered by: Representatives Devereux of Mount Holly, Branagan of Georgia, Eastman of Orwell, and Jerman of Essex

Whereas, on July 7, 1776, following their military retreat from Canada, American generals convened a council of war at Crown Point, New York, and

Whereas, the generals agreed on the importance of developing a strong military presence on the eastern side of Lake Champlain, and upon further investigation settled on Rattlesnake Hill in Orwell, and

Whereas, on July 28, 1776, American military officers stationed at Rattlesnake Hill read aloud to their troops the newly issued Declaration of Independence, and the site became known as Mount Independence, and

Whereas, in the summer of 1777, American forces opted to abandon the extensive military fortification at Mount Independence and, following the Battle of Hubbardton that summer, British troops and their German allies occupied the site, and

Whereas, after an unsuccessful American raid to recapture Mount Independence and the British defeat at Saratoga, New York, the British departed, concluding the brief, but important, role of Mount Independence in the American Revolutionary War, and

Whereas, in 1961, the State of Vermont began to purchase parcels of land at Mount Independence in order to preserve this historical site for future generations, and

Whereas, in 1966, the State of Vermont opened four walking trails that pass historically significant Mount Independence archeological sites and offer vistas of Lake Champlain, and

Whereas, in 1996, the Division for Historic Preservation opened an architecturally unique history museum at Mount Independence designed “in the shape of a bateau to symbolize the naval activities and strategic importance of Lake Champlain in the American Revolution,” and

Whereas, Mount Independence’s status as a national historic landmark is richly deserved, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly commemorates the 50th anniversary of the trail system and the 20th anniversary of the museum at Mount Independence, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Division for Historic Preservation.

H.C.R. 203.

House concurrent resolution honoring George Schenk of Warren for his contribution to Vermont’s food and business communities

Offered by: Representatives Greshin of Warren, Grad of Moretown, and Jewett of Ripton

Whereas, in his youth, George Schenk watched attentively as his grandmother cooked over a wood fire, and recognized the advantages of this ancient process for baking grain-based food products, and

Whereas, after earning a degree in biology at Lycoming College in Pennsylvania, his life's path eventually led him to Vermont, and

Whereas, the origins of the American Flatbread Company (AFC) date to 1985, when George Schenk constructed a primitive, outdoor wood-fired oven on his property, and two years later, he built a larger one at Tucker Hill Lodge in Fayston, and

Whereas, the mission of AFC "is to provide good flavorful nutritious food that gives both joy and health, and to share this food with others in ways sustainable to all," and

Whereas, in 1990, AFC relocated to Lareau Farm in Waitsfield, and

Whereas, both restaurant and wholesale operations evolved, and AFC restaurants were started in Middlebury and later Burlington, as well as a separate franchising arrangement, the Flatbread Company, based in Amesbury, Massachusetts, and in 2006, AFC assumed ownership of the Inn at Lareau Farm, and

Whereas, a basic principle for AFC is purchasing and using local ingredients, and

Whereas, profit is hardly the sole motivation for George Schenk's business venture as his donation of thousands of flatbreads to the needy and annual benefit bakes for worthy causes attest, and

Whereas, George Schenk founded the Medicine Wheel Project and Organic Food for Public Schools, is an active member of Vermont Businesses for Social Responsibility, and serves on the Board of the Vermont Food Bank, and

Whereas, through his writings and activism, George Schenk promotes and supports increased reliance on local and organic foods, and

Whereas, through his generosity, deep commitment to community, and enduring love of high quality, locally sourced food, George Schenk has become a pillar of the economy and the spirit of the Mad River Valley, and

Whereas, Saturday, June 6, 2015 was the 30th anniversary of AFC, and the founding creative genius, local legend, and special Vermonter George Schenk was honored, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors George Schenk of Warren for his innovative roles in Vermont's food and business communities, and be it further

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

H.C.R. 204.

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2015 Essex High School State club championship boys' volleyball team

Offered by: Representatives Myers of Essex, Bancroft of Westford, Dame of Essex, Evans of Essex, and Jerman of Essex

Whereas, due to volleyball's growing popularity among Vermont's high school students, the Vermont Principals' Association (VPA) has designated volleyball as an interscholastic club sport, and

Whereas, volleyball's supporters are hoping the VPA will grant the sport varsity competition status for the 2016 fall season, and

Whereas, in the interim, club play continues to thrive, as was evident at the boys' and girls' 2015 State volleyball championship matches played in Colchester, and

Whereas, the exciting boys' match featured top-seeded Essex High School and second-seeded Champlain Valley Union High School, with Essex sweeping the three-game match 3-0, including two 25-15 victories and one 25-20 win, and

Whereas, the Essex team, which compiled a perfect 12-0 season record, included Spencer Sochin, Isaac Downs, Scott Lyon, Caleb Root, Jacob O'Connell, Andrew Wagner, Noah Eaton, Parker Ryan, Isaac Johnson, and Ian Audette, and

Whereas, Coach Karen Chesser instructed her players expertly on the best game strategies, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the 2015 Essex High School State club championship boys' volleyball team, and be it further

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

H.C.R. 205.

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2015 U-32 High School Raiders Division II championship boys' soccer team

Offered by: Representative Klein of East Montpelier, Ancel of Calais, Donahue of Northfield, Lewis of Berlin, Patt of Worcester, and Smith of Morristown

Offered by: Senators Doyle, Cummings, and Pollina

Whereas, having last won a divisional title in 2008, the U-32 boys' soccer team was longing to return to the championship pedestal, and

Whereas, although seeded sixth in playoff rankings, the 2015 Raiders were clearly a talented group of young soccer players, and

Whereas, perhaps surprising to some fans of Vermont boys' high school soccer, although not to the confident Raiders, U-32 advanced to the championship game in South Burlington against the Woodstock Union High School Wasps, and

Whereas, the two teams exhibited superb goalkeeping skills, resulting in a scoreless tie at the end of regulation play, but two minutes into overtime, triumphantly, the Raiders scored the winning goal, and

Whereas, the patient 2015 Raiders included Derek Cote, Rowan Williams, Jacob Toro, Noah Elmore, Gus Obeldobel, Max Sabo, Seamus Beall, Jacob Kellett, Elias French, Altan Cross, Harrison Bushnell, Wesley Dewey, Ethan Scharf, Dashiell Vermilya, Steven Hepp, Samuel Thompson, Wyatt Mashkuri, and Mackinley Shaffer, and

Whereas, Head Coach Steve Towne and Assistant Coach Mike Noyes led the team with skill and wisdom, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the 2015 U-32 Raiders Division II championship boys' soccer team, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to U-32 High School.

S.C.R. 28

Senate concurrent resolution congratulating Wesley E. Ward of Danville on his being named the 2015 Northeast Kingdom Chamber of Commerce's Citizen of the Year

2015 Northeast Kingdom Chamber of Commerce's Citizen of the Year.

Whereas, in 1975, Wes Ward graduated from St. Johnsbury Academy, and following service in the U.S. Army, he earned a business degree from Lyndon State College, and

Whereas, in 1981, he established Wes Ward Auto Repair in St Johnsbury that for over three decades has provided superior service to its many customers, and he is also the proprietor of the Westward Equipment Service, and

Whereas, on four occasions, in 2004, 2006, 2008, and 2009, the Vermont AAA presented Wes Ward that organization's Auto Shop of the Year Award, and

Whereas, as the father of two daughters, Lisa and Rachel, and the stepfather of Katelyn, children's lives are of great personal importance to Wes Ward, and he works actively on their behalf as a respected guardian ad litem, admired school mentor, and longtime supporter of the Santa Fund, and

Whereas, he is a St. Johnsbury Athenaeum & Art Gallery trustee, and

Whereas, his proven leadership has promoted the good works of the St. Johnsbury Kiwanis Club, and he served as its president in 2009, and

Whereas, that same year, Wes Ward's long association with the Northeast Kingdom Chamber of Commerce (the Chamber) culminated in his serving as its president, while Vermont and the nation confronted the severe economic challenges of the great recession, and

Whereas, he is a 2009 recipient of the Governor's Community Service Award, and

Whereas, in appreciation of Wes Ward's exemplary leadership, in 2011, the Chamber presented Wes Ward its Ken Clow Memorial Trustee Award, and

Whereas, in recognition of his demonstrated professional integrity and success and superb community leadership, on May 21, 2015, the Chamber surprised Wes Ward by naming him its 2015 Citizen of the Year, and his wife, Paula, helped orchestrate this surprise, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates Wesley E. Ward of Danville on his being named the 2015 Northeast Kingdom Chamber of Commerce's Citizen of the Year, *and be it further*

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

S.C.R. 29

Senate concurrent resolution in memory of Shelburne civic and community leader Thomas Trefley Bessette

Whereas, perhaps no other individual was a more passionate contributor to the town of Shelburne's civic well-being than Thomas Bessette, and

Whereas, during his life, he was engaged in an array of roles encompassing unusually diverse aspects of community public service, and

Whereas, a life-long resident of Shelburne, Thomas Bessette was born at home and graduated from the former Shelburne High School in 1960, and

Whereas, his employment included working at Parker Brothers, as head of security at the former Trinity College, as an emergency dispatcher at St. Michael's College, and with Corbin & Palmer Inc., and

Whereas, although he performed each of these jobs efficiently and enthusiastically, and made many friends at his places of employment, Thomas Bessette's true passion was his community leadership and service in Shelburne, and

Whereas, in the realm of public safety, an area in which Thomas Bessette brought his professional expertise, he served the town of Shelburne as a volunteer firefighter, rescue squad driver, police officer, and town constable, and

Whereas, other offices he held in the community included animal control officer and health officer, and

Whereas, during his tenure on the Shelburne Selectboard, Thomas Bessette participated actively in the oversight of all aspects of municipal government, and

Whereas, in a broader geographic context, for over 35 years, he was a Champlain Water District board member, and

Whereas, Thomas Bessette had a well-deserved reputation as a "people person" who enjoyed meeting people and making new friends, and

Whereas, his dedication to serving the citizens of his beloved hometown earned him the title "Mr. Shelburne," which clearly was personally meaningful, and

Whereas, this favorite son of Shelburne died on December 10, 2015 at 73 years of age, and his survivors include his wife of 48 years, Joanne; daughters, Heather, Stephanie, and Christine; four grandchildren; and his brother, Rick, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly extends its sincere condolences to the family of Thomas Trefley Bessette, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Thomas Bessette's wife, daughters, and brother.

S.C.R. 30

Senate concurrent resolution in memory of Louise Bristol Ransom

Whereas, Louise Ransom considered being a loving wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and friend as most rewarding, and

Whereas, she was born in 1921 in New York City and graduated from Vassar College, and

Whereas, her first foray into civic leadership was serving as the information officer for the exiled government of the Philippines during World War II, and

Whereas, in 1948, Louise Ransom and her husband, Robert Ransom, who died in 1986, settled in Bronxville, New York, where they raised six sons, and she served as a community leader and volunteer, and

Whereas, her oldest son, Robert Jr., was killed in 1968 while serving in the U.S. military in Vietnam, and

Whereas, Louise Ransom became a Gold Star Mother who advocated for peace and a universal amnesty for Vietnam-era draft resisters and at the 1976 Democratic National Convention, she delivered a vice presidential nominating speech on behalf of a draft resister, and

Whereas, the United Council of Churches (UCC) hired Louise Ransom to direct a federally funded program aimed at the employment difficulties incarcerated Vietnam veterans were encountering upon release from prison, and

Whereas, in 1980, Louise Ransom and her husband moved to Williston, and her prior UCC work was an excellent credential for her assignment as the Vermont Department of Corrections' director of volunteers, and

Whereas, in 1985, Louise Ransom, along with several friends, cofounded the Williston Whistle weekly newspaper, and

Whereas, a lover of history, she volunteered in the effort to open to the public the remains of Fort Independence, and sat on the Mount Independence Finance Committee and the Vermont Bicentennial Commission, and

Whereas, in 1990, Governor Madeleine Kunin recognized Louise Ransom as an Extraordinary Volunteer, and

Whereas, Louise Ransom was a founding member of Wake Robin, where she had resided since 2001, and

Whereas, this woman with an enduring social conscious and diverse interests died on December 10, 2015 at 94 years of age, and her survivors include her five sons, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly extends its condolences to the family of Louise Bristol Ransom, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to each of Louise Ransom's five sons.

S.C.R. 31

Senate concurrent resolution in memory of Huntington H. Blair of Montpelier

Whereas, innovative leadership in the evolving world of health care policy and technology were the hallmarks of Hunt Blair's impressive career, and

Whereas, Hunt Blair graduated from Brown University, and

Whereas, his initial health care role was as the Vermont Director of Public Policy at Bi-State Primary Care, where he oversaw a major increase in the number of both grantees and the number of federally qualified health care centers they operate in Vermont, and

Whereas, while at Bi-State, Hunt Blair established Vermont's Rural Health Alliance, with a mission to enable rural health centers, clinics, and small hospitals to work collaboratively to put the State's ambitious health care reform agenda into practice, and

Whereas, in 2009, Hunt Blair brought his creative genius to the Vermont Department of Health Access as Deputy Commissioner of Health Reform and as State Coordinator for Health Information Technology (HIT) Services, and

Whereas, his many State employment accomplishments included development of Vermont's HIT plans, and

Whereas, Hunt Blair mastered the intricacies and architecture of health care in Vermont and developed colorful diagrams to illustrate its operation, and

Whereas, despite the sensitivity of health care as a public policy issue, he served in a senior leadership post in administrations of different political parties, and

Whereas, the respect Hunt Blair earned among his Vermont colleagues spread nationally and, in 2013, he was appointed a principal advisor to the national coordinator of HIT, and

Whereas, after serving in this federal role, both full-time and as a contract employee, Hunt Blair ventured onto a new independent path to develop what he characterized as a Bretton Woods moment in the development of health care information management nationwide, and

Whereas, this industrious Vermonter who was devoted to his family died in September 2015, a week short of his 55th birthday, and his survivors include his wife, Sarah, sons, George and Adam, and his mother, Gretchen Payne, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly extends its sincere sympathies to the family of Huntington H. Blair, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the members of Huntington Blair's family.

S.C.R. 32

Senate concurrent resolution congratulating the 2015 Harwood Union High School Highlanders girls' cross-country team on winning its seventh consecutive Division II championship

Whereas, prior to 2015, in Division II competition, the Harwood Union High School Highlanders had amassed six consecutive first-place titles at the annual State cross-country championship held at Thetford Academy, and

Whereas, despite two key injuries, Harwood rose to the occasion, and the Highlanders focused their energy on this ultimate meet of the 2015 season, and

Whereas, the team's many fans were not disappointed, as all five Harwood runners were among the top 11 Division II girls' finishers on the Thetford course, scoring 31 points, 24 better than the second-place U-32 Raiders, and

Whereas, the outstanding Harwood runners, who made their schoolmates proud, included Erin Magill, Jordan Kulis, Phoebe Sweet, Lily Clark, Isabel Jamieson, Anneka Williams, Katie Ferguson, Aenea Mead, and Nicole Cutler, and

Whereas, Coaches John Kerrigan and Tom Strasser were superb strategists and team supporters, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the 2015 Harwood Union High School Highlanders girls' cross-country team on winning its seventh consecutive Division II championship, *and be it further*

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

S.C.R. 33

Senate concurrent resolution congratulating Susan Koch on her selection as the 2016 Vermont Teacher of the Year

Whereas, the Vermont Agency of Education (AOE) annually selects the Vermont Teacher of the Year as a way “to promote the teaching profession and to recognize educators who are modeling ‘best practices’ in Vermont’s schools,” and

Whereas, in the fall of 2015, after reviewing an excellent roster of nominees, the AOE chose Susan Koch, a kindergarten and first grade teacher at Montpelier’s Union Elementary School who advocates a collaborative teaching process, as the recipient of this much-coveted professional accolade for 2016, and

Whereas, one of Susan Koch’s innovative projects was the creation of a blog entitled *Mrs. Koch’s Class News*, featuring colorful photographs and stories relating her class’s myriad activities, and

Whereas, beyond the traditional classroom, Susan Koch has championed natural resources education, as a leading and enthusiastic participant in the North Branch Nature Center’s Educating Children Outdoors, a standards-based nature immersion program, and

Whereas, on Tuesday, November 17, 2015, a capacity crowd consisting of Union Elementary School students, faculty, and staff; the Montpelier School Superintendent; the Vermont Secretary of Education; and the Governor gathered in the school’s gymnasium to honor and applaud Susan Koch, and

Whereas, in her acceptance speech, Susan Koch described teachers as “learners, explorers and adventurers” who work in an “exciting, dynamic and fluid profession,” and

Whereas, these sentiments illustrate why Susan Koch was an ideal choice to serve as the 2016 Vermont Teacher of the Year, and

Whereas, Susan Koch will be traveling throughout Vermont, visiting schools, working with teachers, and proudly representing her profession, and

Whereas, Susan Koch will also serve as Vermont’s nominee for the Council of Chief State School Officers’ National Teacher of the Year award and will be honored, with similar state award winners, at a White House reception, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates Susan Koch on her selection as the 2016 Vermont Teacher of the Year, *and be it further*

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