

**CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

**ADDENDUM**

**TO THE**

**SENATE CALENDAR**

**Text of Senate  
Concurrent Resolutions**

**of**

**Thursday, January 14, 2016**



## CONSENT CALENDAR

### Concurrent Resolutions for Notice under Joint Rule 16

The following joint concurrent resolutions have been introduced for approval by the Senate and House and will be adopted by the Senate unless a Senator requests floor consideration before the end of the session of the next legislative day. Requests for floor consideration should be communicated to the Secretary's Office.

#### **S.C.R. 28.**

By Senators Kitchel and Benning,

By Representatives Toll of Danville, Beck of St. Johnsbury, Feltus of Lyndon, Lawrence of Lyndon, Quimby of Concord, Troiano of Stannard, and Willhoit of St. Johnsbury,

**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.

*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.**

By Senators Lyons, Ashe, Baruth, Mazza, Sirotkin, Snelling, and Zuckerman,

By Representatives Webb of Shelburne and Lenes of Shelburne,

**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.**

By Senators Lyons, Ashe, Baruth, Sirotkin, Snelling, and Zuckerman,

By Representatives Lenex of Shelburne, Macaig of Williston, McCullough of Williston, and Webb of Shelburne,

**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.**

By Senators Kitchel, Ayer, Collamore, Lyons, McCormack, and Pollina,

**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.**

By Senators Doyle, Cummings, and Pollina,

By Representatives Grad of Moretown, Greshin of Warren, Stevens of Waterbury, and Wood of Waterbury,

**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.**

By Senators Doyle, Cummings, and Pollina,

By Representatives Hooper of Montpelier and Kitzmiller of Montpelier,

**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.