

State of Vermont House of Representatives



Montpelier, Vermont

Concurrent House Resolution

H.C.R. 35

House concurrent resolution in memory of master fiddler Harold Luce

Offered by: Representatives Davis of Washington, Buxton of Tunbridge, Conquest of Newbury, French of Randolph, Graham of Williamstown, Haas of Rochester, Masland of Thetford, and Ryerson of Randolph

Offered by: Senator MacDonald

Whereas, traditional fiddle playing is closely associated with Vermont's traditional rural culture, and

Whereas, one of Vermont's renowned traditional fiddlers was Harold Luce of Chelsea, and

Whereas, Harold Luce was born on October 11, 1918, in Chelsea and called the Orange County shire town home for much of his life, and

Whereas, he and his wife, Edith, married in 1939 and were wed for 58 years until her death in 1997, and

Whereas, Harold Luce began performing as a fiddler in 1934 with the Ed Larkin Contra Dancers and was a lead soloist with the Vermont Fiddle Orchestra, and

Whereas, he was honored to have performed at both New York World's Fairs, the Smithsonian Institution Festival of American Folklife in Washington, D.C., and, closer to home, at the Tunbridge World's Fair, and

Whereas, his regular performance venues were parties of all kinds, including weddings, senior citizen groups, and nursing homes, and

Whereas, Harold Luce was a member of the Northeast Fiddlers Association, the Southern Vermont Fiddlers, and the Champlain Valley Fiddlers, and

Whereas, passing on the fiddling tradition was a matter of great importance for Harold Luce, and he taught fiddling through the Vermont Folklife Center, and he was featured in the center's publication *Visit'n 8*, "Contras, Squares and Rounds: Fiddling the Night Away at Local Dances," and

Whereas, when not fiddling, Harold Luce had been a farmer, machinist, bus driver, grange member, and 4-H leader, and

Whereas, in recent years, Harold Luce and his companion, Marion Gilman, had enjoyed each other's company both in Chelsea and while traveling, until her death in 2013, and

Whereas, after a long life, in which he earned the respect and admiration of his many friends and fiddling fans far and wide, Harold Luce died on August 13, 2014, at age 95, and his survivors include: his six children, Russell, Clayton, Kevin, Donna, Martha, and Cynthia; 19 grandchildren; 37 great-grandchildren; and eight great-great-grandchildren, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly expresses its condolences to the family of master fiddler Harold Luce, and be it further

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