

**No. R-78. House concurrent resolution honoring Wardsboro Town Moderator Robert Backus M.D. for his nearly four decades of exemplary practice of medicine in southern Vermont.**

(H.C.R.55)

Offered by: Representatives Sibia of Dover, Long of Newfane, Olsen of Londonderry, Partridge of Windham, Burke of Brattleboro, Deen of Westminster, Gannon of Wilmington, Mrowicki of Putney, Toleno of Brattleboro, and Trieber of Rockingham

Offered by: Senators Balint and White

Whereas, a caring country doctor, reminiscent of a bygone era, is an accurate description of Dr. Robert Backus who as a youth knew he wanted to become a family doctor, and

Whereas, he graduated from the University of Nevada at Reno, having also studied at the University of Massachusetts and Dartmouth College, served in the Peace Corps, and, finding Vermont most alluring, earned his medical degree at the University of Vermont (UVM), and

Whereas, along the way toward his medical degree, his employment experiences included working as a day nurse, an orderly, and on a rescue squad, and

Whereas, once he completed medical internships in Adelaide, Australia, Dr. Robert Backus returned to Vermont and accepted a position at Grace Cottage Hospital in Townshend, and

Whereas, following completion of a family medicine residency at UVM, he returned to Townshend and entered private practice, and

Whereas, Dr. Robert Backus, who is board certified in family and geriatric medicine and is a Fellow of the American Academy of Family Physicians and the American Geriatrics Society, has described the small and nonprofit Grace Cottage Hospital, where he has continued to be employed, as “the greatest community-development project I’ve ever seen,” and

Whereas, his dedication to this unique medical center involves extensive fundraising work that he conducts with a passion, and

Whereas, his patients revere him, and he places great importance on continuously updating his medical knowledge, and

Whereas, since 2006, Dr. Robert Backus has exercised his discerning judgment presiding as the Wardsboro Town Moderator, and

Whereas, on March 9, 2017, an era in southern Vermont’s health care will end when Dr. Robert Backus concludes his full-time practice of medicine, but fortunately, he will remain associated with Grace College Hospital, focusing on fundraising and the addition of a gerontology practice, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors Wardsboro Town Moderator Robert Backus M.D. for his nearly four decades of exemplary practice of medicine in southern Vermont, and be it further

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