

No. R-83. House concurrent resolution in memory of John William Reagan of Wilmington and West Wardsboro.

(H.C.R.60)

Offered by: Representatives Sibilias of Dover, Gannon of Wilmington, Botzow of Pownal, Browning of Arlington, Burke of Brattleboro, Corcoran of Bennington, Deen of Westminster, Fields of Bennington, Hebert of Vernon, Keefe of Manchester, Long of Newfane, Miller of Shaftsbury, Morris of Bennington, Morrissey of Bennington, Mrowicki of Putney, Olsen of Londonderry, Partridge of Windham, Stuart of Brattleboro, Sullivan of Dorset, Toleno of Brattleboro, and Trieber of Rockingham

Offered by: Senators Campion, Sears, Balint, and White

Whereas, a central attraction in the town of Wilmington is the renowned Dot's Restaurant that *Gourmet Magazine* has called "a national treasure," and that other publications, including *Vermont Life* and several skiing magazines, have praised, and

Whereas, John Reagan was born in 1952 on Long Island, New York where he graduated from General Douglas MacArthur High School, and

Whereas, seeking an alternative to suburbia, in 1978, John Reagan moved to Wilmington, working in different Deerfield Valley restaurants, and

Whereas, in the early 1980s, he acquired the 185-year-old building that had housed a restaurant since 1930, and was originally Wilmington's U.S. Post Office, and

Whereas, John Reagan soon opted to rename this well-known eatery Dot's Restaurant, and it continued to attract enthusiastic local residents and vacationers visiting southern Vermont, and

Whereas, in 1984, Patty Bemis of Jacksonville applied for a waitressing job, John Reagan promptly hired then fired her, officially for not showing up to work on time, but they later married, and ever since have been devoted business and life partners, and

Whereas, although a purveyor of fantastic and popular meals, Dot's Restaurant is precariously located adjacent to the Deerfield River, and when Tropical Storm Irene devastated the town of Wilmington in 2011, it severely damaged Dot's home, and

Whereas, the establishment's future at first appeared dubious, but with a persevering spirit and financial support from many individuals, the Friends of the Valley Foundation, the Preservation Trust of Vermont, and the Wilmington Fund, Dot's Restaurant triumphantly reopened in 2013, and its elegant restoration was awarded a 2014 Preservation Trust of Vermont award "for preserving Vermont's historic architecture," and

Whereas, on February 13, 2017, John Reagan's many friends were saddened to learn of this extraordinary restaurateur's death from cancer, and his survivors include his wife, Patty; his brother, Paul; and his sisters, Phyllis and Betsey, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly extends its condolences to the family of John William Reagan, and be it further

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