

No. R-212. House concurrent resolution honoring the extraordinary public service and sacrifice of the Morse family of Jay and congratulating Helen (Sargent) Morse on her 95th birthday.

(H.C.R.173)

Offered by: Representatives Higley of Lowell and Strong of Albany

Offered by: Senators Rodgers and Starr

Whereas, born in 1922, Helen (Sargent) Morse of Jay was one of six siblings born into a family connected to the Northeast Kingdom's rural land-based economy, who lived frugally and always helped less fortunate neighbors, and

Whereas, after graduating from the former North Troy High School, Helen Sargent married Glennie Morse, and the couple settled on a Morse family farm in Jay where she gave birth to seven children at home, and

Whereas, in June 1968, their son, Durwood, was drafted into the U.S. Army at the height of the Vietnam War and before deployment to Southeast Asia he predicted he would "be back in a box," and

Whereas, in an event that resulted in much sadness, on December 13, 1968, while serving in Hau Nghia Province, Private First Class Durwood Morse sustained fatal injuries from enemy fire while saving the life of his sergeant, and his survivors included his young wife, and

Whereas, on December 24, 1968, as most Americans were celebrating the heroic deeds of the Apollo 8 astronauts orbiting the moon, the citizens of Jay were remembering their own true American hero at a memorial service held in the United Church of Christ in North Troy, and

Whereas, Helen and Glennie Morse always kept their son's memory close to their hearts while serving the town of Jay in many ways, she as a town auditor and town clerk and he as road commissioner and as a member of the school board and selectboard, and

Whereas, the family's municipal public service in Jay continued as their son, Harold, is now the road commissioner, and both their daughter, Emeline, and granddaughter-in-law, Tara, held the clerk's position with distinction, and

Whereas, Helen Morse, whose husband died in 1994, celebrated her 95th birthday this year and remains the respected matriarch of a family consisting of adoring children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great grandchildren, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors the extraordinary public service and sacrifice of the Morse family of Jay and congratulates Helen (Sargent) Morse on her 95th birthday, and be it further

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