

No. R-225. House concurrent resolution in memory of Vermont skiing legend Wendell Cram.

(H.C.R.186)

Offered by: Representatives Keefe of Manchester, Gannon of Wilmington, Kimbell of Woodstock, Olsen of Londonderry, Scheuermann of Stowe, Sibilia of Dover, and Sullivan of Dorset

Offered by: Senators Champion, Sears, Clarkson, and Nitka

Whereas, Wendell (Wendy) Cram was born on January 15, 1921 in Bridgewater, not far from the site of Bunny Bertram's 1934, first-in-the-nation alpine ski rope tow at Woodstock's Gilbert Hill, and

Whereas, he used long wooden skis and ski poles constructed from wooden dowels, and Wendy evolved quickly into an excellent ski racer, and

Whereas, in 1936, Bunny Bertram established a Model T-engine-powered rope tow at the far steeper Suicide Six, and

Whereas, in 1937, learning of amazing records being set at European courses with ski lifts, Wendy Cram decided to set a one-day record at the 325-foot Suicide Six ski drop and, with special modifications improving tow access and speed, skied more than 100 runs, a record that may still stand, and

Whereas, he graduated from Woodstock High School and Norwich University, and

Whereas, Wendy Cram earned a spot on the 1940 U.S. Winter Olympic Skiing team, but that Olympics was cancelled due to the war in Europe, and

Whereas, during World War II, Wendy Cram served as a ski instructor in the elite U.S. Army's 10th Mountain Division, although never deployed, and

Whereas, following the war's conclusion, he headed to Sun Valley, Idaho, where he worked as a ski instructor and was awarded a Diamond Sun pin for completing that two-mile race course in a mere one minute, 47 seconds, and

Whereas, on returning to Vermont, Wendy Cram operated Wendy's Ski Shop in Manchester, and he served as president of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce, and

Whereas, Wendy Cram was a popular ski instructor at Stratton, a lifetime member of the Professional Ski Instructors of America, and a Vermont Ski and Snowboarding Museum Hall of Fame inductee, and

Whereas, he was an enthusiastic bicyclist into his 90s, and in 2009, Manchester's first bikeway was named in his honor, and

Whereas, Wendy Cram died on April 30, 2017, and his survivors include his nieces and nephews, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly extends its sincere condolences to the family of Wendell Cram, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Wendy Cram's nephew Allan Cram, to local alpine ski areas, and to the Vermont Ski and Snowboarding Museum in Stowe.