

No. R-389. House concurrent resolution in memory of Antonio B. Pomerleau of Burlington.

(H.C.R.315)

Offered by: All Members of the House

Whereas, Tony Pomerleau's century-long and inspiring life's journey began in Marbleton, Quebec, on September 28, 1917, and when he was six months old, his family moved across the border to a Barton farm, and

Whereas, his business savvy was first manifested at 10 years of age with an ingenious lawn-mowing scheme that netted him 50 percent of the profit without touching a mower, and

Whereas, after moving to Burlington, he discovered his true passion as the developer of shopping centers that featured large supermarkets, and

Whereas, Tony Pomerleau, who was a great raconteur and always loyal to his Franco-American roots and Catholic faith, would amass a fortune worth in excess of \$100 million that spurred his becoming one of Vermont's most famous and extraordinary contemporary philanthropists, and

Whereas, for more than 30 years, he hosted an annual Christmas party in Burlington for hundreds of guests of low income; numerous mobile home owners received assistance from him following the devastation of Tropical Storm Irene; and he paid the tuition for many Rice Memorial High School students, and

Whereas, among the recipients of his or his foundations' generosity were St. Michael's College, the Burlington YMCA, the Boys and Girls Club's Early Promise Education Program, and the VNA hospice in Colchester, and

Whereas, Tony Pomerleau chaired the Burlington Police Commission and was a tireless advocate for the members of the force, and

Whereas, after his tenure on the Commission, he refurbished a building and sold it to the City of Burlington for a needed new police headquarters, taking a personal loss on the project, and

Whereas, this businessman and philanthropist won enthusiastic praise and admiration from many civic leaders and politicians, regardless of partisan affiliation, and

Whereas, the remarkable life of Tony Pomerleau ended at 100 years of age on February 8, 2018, and his survivors include his loving wife of 71 years, Rita; his children, Ernest, Patricia, Elizabeth, Susan, Dennis, Rosemary, Alice, and Grace; 13 grandchildren; and two adored great-grandchildren, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly extends its sincere condolences to the family of Antonio B. Pomerleau of Burlington, and be it further

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