

No. R-489. Senate concurrent resolution in memory of Gertrude Martha Hodge of Topsham.

(S.C.R.23)

By Senators Kitchel, Benning, Cummings, and MacDonald,

By Representatives Connor of Fairfield, Conquest of Newbury, Cupoli of Rutland City, and Wright of Burlington

Whereas, Gertrude Darrow was born in Rural Grove, New York, on April 20, 1919 and graduated from Canajoharie High School and the Nyack Missionary Institute, and

Whereas, on her 21st birthday, she married George R. Hodge of East Topsham, a marriage that endured for 58 years until her husband's death, and

Whereas, for two decades, Gertrude Hodge was employed at the Vermont Department of Public Safety, working on civil defense matters as the only woman training officer, and

Whereas, after her State government retirement, Gertrude Hodge drew on her professional experience to serve as a FEMA disaster reservist, and she received a presidential appointment to the Executive Reserve, and

Whereas, her volunteer participation and leadership spanned a broad scope of religious and civic organizations, and

Whereas, faith was central in Gertrude Hodge's life: she served as a Methodist lay minister and as president of United Presbyterian Women of Vermont and was a leader of the Bible-distributing Gideons Auxiliary, and

Whereas, Gertrude Hodge's interest in public education led to her service as PTA State President and a seat on the association's national board, and

Whereas, the importance of agriculture in Gertrude Hodge's life resulted in her holding the office of women's chairperson of the Vermont Farm Bureau, and

Whereas, she sat on a number of panels related to the public's health and safety such as the Northeast Health Care Quality Foundation, the State's dental and funeral boards, and the Northeast Board of Dental Examiners, and

Whereas, in her later years, Gertrude Hodge focused especially on issues related to older Vermonters, serving on the board of the Central Vermont Council on Aging; as the Vermont AARP Health Chair and Legislative Specialist; and on the board of the Community of Vermont Elders, and

Whereas, on behalf of older Vermonters, Gertrude Hodge was a familiar and respected presence in the State House, and

Whereas, this venerable mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and great-great-grandmother died on her 99th birthday, having lived a full and amazingly productive life that contributed much to her family, faith, community, and State, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly expresses its sincere condolences to the family of Gertrude Martha Hodge of Topsham, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the family of Gertrude Hodge.