

State of Vermont

House of Representatives



Montpelier, Vermont

Concurrent House Resolution

H.C.R. 209

House concurrent resolution in memory of Pajj Wadley-Bailey of Montpelier

Offered by: Representatives Cina of Burlington, Botzow of Pownal, Buckholz of Hartford, Burditt of West Rutland, Burke of Brattleboro, Chesnut-Tangerman of Middletown Springs, Colburn of Burlington, Conquest of Newbury, Dunn of Essex, Gonzalez of Winooski, Haas of Rochester, Hooper of Montpelier, Houghton of Essex, Kitzmiller of Montpelier, Lippert of Hinesburg, Macaig of Williston, Masland of Thetford, Miller of Shaftsbury, Murphy of Fairfax, Myers of Essex, Troiano of Stannard, and Weed of Enosburgh

Offered by: Senators Brooks, Cummings, Pearson, and Pollina

Whereas, Pajj Wadley-Bailey of Montpelier was an African-American woman who was proud of her Nigerian ancestry and whose fearless advocacy served her community well in her opposition to racism and religious discrimination and support for the rights of LGBTQA Vermonters, and

Whereas, after growing up in West Hills, Connecticut, Pajj Wadley-Bailey moved to Vermont, earning two master's degrees, one in social ecology from Goddard College and a second in education from the University of Vermont (UVM), and

Whereas, Pajj Wadley-Bailey developed the Lesbian and Gay Studies Program and Center at Goddard College, served as the first coordinator of the LGBTQA Services Program at UVM, and held faculty positions at each academic institution, and

Whereas, she served as director of the Vermont Anti-Racism Action Team, organized its public school-based Reading to End Racism program, attended a 2001 United Nations World Conference Against Racism held in Durban, South Africa, and taught in a Holocaust Studies for Youth summer institute, and

Whereas, her 21-year membership in the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) included active participation in its Montpelier chapter, such as gathering petition signatures to abolish nuclear weapons or close Vermont Yankee; service as WILPF's U.S. secretary and on its U.S. board; and traveling repeatedly to Rwanda, where she taught English as a Second Language to women working with persons living with HIV/AIDS and assisted in the formation of WILPF's Rwandan chapter, and

Whereas, this amazing woman's joyful exuberance and spirit were demonstrated as a member of the Raging Grannies and the Montpelier Community Gospel Choir, in which she celebrated her love of singing, and

Whereas, Pajj Wadley-Bailey, who remained engaged in the community until the day preceding her death, died on August 18, 2016 in accordance with Vermont's Death with Dignity law, at 77 years of age, and her death deeply touched her many supportive friends, colleagues, and family members, and

Whereas, her survivors include her children, Denise, Richard, Lance, and Carrie, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly extends its sincere condolences to the family of Pajj Wadley-Bailey of Montpelier, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the members of Pajj Wadley-Bailey's family.