

No. R-53. House concurrent resolution in memory of Scott Skinner of Middlesex.

(H.C.R.41)

Offered by: Representatives Ancel of Calais, Hooper of Montpelier, Jessup of Middlesex, and Kitzmiller of Montpelier

Offered by: Senators Cummings, Perchlik, and Pollina

Whereas, working as a lawyer who advocated for causes in which he believed, meeting athletic challenges, and helping the nation of Nepal were among the key elements in the 76-year life of Scott Skinner, and

Whereas, his skill for “ferreting obscure merit badges” enabled him to become an Eagle Scout shortly after his 13th birthday, and

Whereas, Scott Skinner attended the prestigious Lawrenceville School, was a passionate multi-sport athlete, edited the school literary magazine, and graduated with top honors, and

Whereas, he was a scholarship student at Clifton College, a British boarding school, and graduated with high honors from Dartmouth College, and

Whereas, desiring to make a societal contribution, Scott Skinner enrolled in the Peace Corps, teaching English in Nepal, and his association with this Himalayan nation endured through his volunteer work with the Phulmaya Foundation and hiking excursions, and

Whereas, Scott Skinner earned a law degree from Columbia Law School and initially practiced law in New York City, and

Whereas, Scott Skinner served as the first executive director of the Vermont Public Interest Research Group (VPIRG), successfully advocating legislative enactment of laws restricting future nuclear and coal power facilities and of the Tooth Fairy dental program for low income children, and he introduced the concept of “lifeline” electric rates for public discussion, and

Whereas, based on his VPIRG experience, Scott Skinner ran in the 1976 U.S. Senate Democratic primary on a platform centered on opposition to nuclear power, not winning but earning a respectable 47 percent of the vote, and in 1980, he ran a strong though ultimately unsuccessful effort as the Democratic candidate for Vermont Attorney General, and

Whereas, in the early 1980s, Scott Skinner served as the executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Vermont and then practiced law for many years in Montpelier, and

Whereas, Scott Skinner was an avid hiker who supposedly cofounded the annual and never-canceled mid-February Mount Hunger snowshoe climb, and in retirement he was an active volunteer at the Barre Historical Society, and

Whereas, Scott Skinner died on December 15, 2018, and his survivors include his wife, former Washington County State Senator Mary Just Skinner, and their children and 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 Scott Skinner, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the members of Scott Skinner’s family.