

No. R-73. Senate concurrent resolution in memory of former NOFA-VT Executive Director and organic farming pioneer advocate, Enid Wonnacott.

(S.C.R.4)

By Senators Pollina, Collamore, Hardy, Pearson, and Starr,

By Representatives Bartholomew of Hartland, Bock of Chester, Fegard of Berkshire, Graham of Williamstown, Norris of Shoreham, O'Brien of Tunbridge, Partridge of Windham, Sheldon of Middlebury, and Strong of Albany,

Whereas, as a youth, Enid Wonnacott spent time at a Weybridge dairy farm, showed livestock at a local fair, and worked with a large-animal veterinarian, and

Whereas, her first acquaintance with organic farming occurred when she was a student at St. Lawrence University in Canton, New York, and

Whereas, after graduation, Enid Wonnacott won a Thomas J. Watson Fellowship that enabled her to work at organic farms in New Zealand, Nepal, Norway, and England, and

Whereas, on returning home, she taught biology and environmental education, became an organic certification inspector, and earned a graduate degree at the University of Vermont, and

Whereas, in 1987, Enid Wonnacott became the executive director and sole employee of the Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont (NOFA-VT), and at the time of her hiring she was presented with its core documents in a brown milk crate, which she retained throughout her 30-year NOFA-VT career, and

Whereas, NOFA-VT now employs 20 full-time staff and is the State's primary advocacy and technical-support organization for organic farmers and gardeners, runs a model farm-to-school food program, arranges subsidized farm shares, certifies hundreds of organic farmers, and serves as an information resource, and

Whereas, a favorite NOFA-VT promotion for Enid Wonnacott was the organization's mobile pizza oven that she and other employees used to bake pizza at community events, and

Whereas, she was a leading national advocate for organic farming, and she encouraged farmers to consider sustainable cultivation practices even if they were not yet ready for a complete transition to organics, and

Whereas, in 2018, Enid Wonnacott was the first individual to be inducted into the Vermont Agricultural Hall of Fame whose affiliation with agriculture was exclusively with organic farming, and

Whereas, Enid Wonnacott died on January 19, 2019, after a valiant battle against cancer, and her survivors include her husband, Harry, and their children, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly extends condolences to the family of Enid Wonnacott and to the staff of NOFA-VT, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the members of Enid's family and to the Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont.