

No. R-78. House concurrent resolution honoring Betty Bell of New Haven for her devoted community leadership.

(H.C.R.60)

Offered by: Representative Smith of New Haven

Offered by: Senators Bray and Hardy

Whereas, each March, the New Haven Town Report is dedicated to a citizen whose civic service merits special recognition, and

Whereas, Betty Bell is a respected member of the community, whose elected and voluntary roles have contributed significantly to the high quality of life in New Haven, undoubtedly qualifying her for this distinct honor, and

Whereas, for eight years, as a justice of the peace, Betty Bell assisted in the conduct of elections and the evaluation of property tax appeals, and she was authorized to preside at marriage ceremonies, and

Whereas, matters related to new construction, long-term planning, and zoning were of great importance to Betty Bell, as she served for 14 years on the town's Zoning Board of Adjustment and two years on the Planning Commission, and

Whereas, electoral service has been only one aspect of Betty Bell's community contribution, and

Whereas, the upkeep of public and sacred grounds has long occupied her attention, and

Whereas, for many years, Betty Bell, regularly and on her own initiative, mowed the lawns surrounding the New Haven town office building, and

Whereas, for 31 years, she served as the sexton of Evergreen Cemetery where she mowed the grass, addressed storm damage, and attended to the care of gravesites of those who do not have local relatives to perform this traditional family duty, and

Whereas, in 1996, Betty Bell restored the abandoned Everts Cemetery, and

Whereas, that same year, an interest in town history prompted her to establish the New Haven Historical Society and she served as its president for a decade, arranging an impressive program schedule that she financed with the sales of a calendar she created, and

Whereas, life at the New Haven Congregational Church and the activities of the Beeman Elementary School alumni group, including its annual Memorial Day march to the Evergreen Cemetery, as well as her membership in the local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution continue to be high personal priorities, and

Whereas, at 90 years of age, the modest Betty Bell remains New Haven's special ambassador, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors Betty Bell of New Haven for her devoted community leadership, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Betty Bell.