

No. R-89. House concurrent resolution honoring civic activist Shirley Searles Squires of Guilford.

(H.C.R.71)

Offered by: Representative Coffey of Guilford

Whereas, seventh-generation Vermonter Shirley Searles Squires was born in Brattleboro and since 1941 has resided in Guilford, in a house that her father and uncle constructed, where she is a pillar of the community, and

Whereas, when she was 18 years of age, she married Maynard Squires, and they became the parents of a large family, which now includes a great number of grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and

Whereas, in 1990, her son, Ronald, was elected to represent the towns of Guilford and Vernon in the House of Representatives, and

Whereas, as the first openly gay member of the Vermont General Assembly, Ronald Squires's personal initiative and leadership were instrumental in the pioneering enactment of 1992 Acts and Resolves No. 135, An act relating to discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, and

Whereas, in January 1993, shortly after being sworn in for a second term, former Representative Ronald Squires died of AIDS, and

Whereas, Shirley Squires turned her grief into action and became a passionate advocate for victims of AIDS, and

Whereas, for 26 years, Shirley Squires has marched in the annual Southern Vermont AIDS Walk, an event in memory of individuals who have died from HIV-related illnesses, and her efforts have raised over \$350,000 for the AIDS Project of Southern Vermont, and

Whereas, she is actively associated with the Brattleboro Area Hospice and Guilford Cares, and

Whereas, Shirley Squires's religious faith is of paramount importance to her and sustained her through the immediate aftermath of her son's death, and

Whereas, St. Michael's Catholic Church in Brattleboro plays a great role in her life, and she offers communion to home-bound parishioners, and

Whereas, Shirley Squires has collected approximately 1,600 Christmas nativities from around the world, welcomes the public to view the collection, and provides a basket in which visitors can place donation to the AIDS Project of Southern Vermont and the Brattleboro Area Hospice, and

Whereas, as a member of the Yellow Ribbon Group, she participated in sending care packages to U.S. military personnel stationed in Iraq and Afghanistan, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors civic activist Shirley Searles Squires of Guilford, and be it further

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