

**No. R-167. House concurrent resolution honoring William Eugene Griffin on the completion of an extraordinary career as the Vermont Chief Assistant Attorney General.**

(H.C.R.140)

Offered by: Representatives Grad of Moretown and Ancel of Calais

Offered by: Senator Sears

Whereas, in 1957, recognizing that the lawyers in the Attorney General's office work for an elected official, the General Assembly established the classified position of Chief Assistant Attorney General, for whom political considerations would be irrelevant, and

Whereas, Bill Griffin graduated from the University of Western Ontario in 1965 and in 1968 earned his law degree at Northwestern University School of Law, and

Whereas, his more than half century as a lawyer in public service began in San Francisco, where he worked for the Neighborhood Legal Assistance Program and for the city's Economic Opportunity Council, and

Whereas, in 1970, Bill Griffin, who is an ardent skier, and his wife, Pat Griffin, moved to Vermont, purchasing an old Calais homestead, which they restored, and they farmed its adjacent land, and

Whereas, he began his Vermont legal career as an assistant Attorney General and then worked in other State offices, and

Whereas, in 1980, Attorney General John Easton appointed Bill Griffin as the office's Civil Division Chief and in 1981 named him as the Chief Assistant Attorney General, and

Whereas, Bill Griffin has served the State of Vermont in this role with dignity, wisdom, humor, and always calm, independent legal judgement, and

Whereas, Bill Griffin has served seven Attorneys General, defended numerous State laws, including cases protecting the integrity of the legislative process, recovered millions of dollars for environmental clean-ups, written advisory opinions on a broad scope of issues, and for 26 years chaired the judiciary's Civil Rules Committee, and

Whereas, as a lover of opera, he studied Italian in Italy, and

Whereas, in recognition of his service to the State of Vermont, a commendation that all living Attorneys General and Governors of Vermont have signed is being presented to Bill Griffin with much gratitude, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors William Eugene Griffin on the completion of an extraordinary career as the Vermont Chief Assistant Attorney General, and be it further

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