

No. R-177. House concurrent resolution honoring the tenth bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Vermont, the Right Reverend Thomas Clark Ely, for his visionary leadership.

(H.C.R.144)

Offered by: Representatives Ancel of Calais, Noyes of Wolcott, Cina of Burlington, Colburn of Burlington, Donovan of Burlington, Hooper of Burlington, Krowinski of Burlington, McCormack of Burlington, Ode of Burlington, O'Sullivan of Burlington, and Sullivan of Burlington

Offered by: Senators Clarkson and Ingram

Whereas, Bishop Tom Ely graduated cum laude from Western Connecticut State University, earned his master's degree in divinity at the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee, and was ordained as a deacon and next as an Episcopal priest in the Diocese of Connecticut, and

Whereas, his first assignment was as an assistant priest in the Middlesex, Connecticut, area, and he subsequently served as Director of Youth Ministry and as Missioner of Connecticut's Greater Hartford Regional Ministry, and

Whereas, in 2001, the then Reverend Tom Ely was honored to be elected as the tenth bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Vermont, and

Whereas, Tom Ely's inspiring leadership as bishop has centered on a ministry that proclaims social justice and compassion on a wide variety of issues, even those that are controversial, and he has often been pioneering in this regard, and

Whereas, his duties require him to travel thousands of miles each year, and

Whereas, as a member of the Cristosal Foundation Board of Directors, Bishop Tom Ely has worked passionately to improve human rights in El Salvador, and

Whereas, he has spoken in support of full equality for the LGBTQ community, including same-sex marriage and complete inclusion in all aspects of the life of the Episcopal Church, and

Whereas, Bishop Tom Ely's active involvement in Bishops United Against Gun Violence coincides with his concerns on this issue, and

Whereas, the creation of the Bishop Tom Ely Solar Farm at Rock Point in Burlington reflects his belief that we are stewards of our natural resources, and

Whereas, Bishop Tom Ely has been a leader with Vermont Interfaith Action, Kids 4 Peace, and the Vermont Ecumenical Council, through which he has partnered on worthy projects with other Christian denominations, Muslims, and Jews, and

Whereas, Tom Ely is concluding his tenure as bishop, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors the tenth bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Vermont, the Right Reverend Thomas Clark Ely, for his visionary leadership, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Bishop Tom Ely.