

**No. R-219. House concurrent resolution in memory of Mary Nikitas Geannelis of Bennington.**

(H.C.R.180)

Offered by: Representatives Morrissey of Bennington, Bates of Bennington, Carroll of Bennington, and Corcoran of Bennington

Offered by: Senators Campion and Sears

Whereas, Mary Nikitas spent her early youth in Fitchburg, Massachusetts, and graduated from Columbia High School in East Greenbush, New York, and

Whereas, in 1956, Mary Nikitas married Richard Geannelis, and from 1970 to 1985, they owned and operated Geannelis' Restaurant in Bennington, and

Whereas, after her husband's death in 1995, Mary Geannelis reopened the family's restaurant from 1997 to 1999, and

Whereas, during the following two decades, Mary Geannelis was a civic leader whose fundraising brilliance and administrative guidance on behalf of nonprofit and business organizations in Bennington were pivotal for the success of numerous capital campaigns and managerial initiatives, and

Whereas, among the numerous Bennington community organizations with which she was associated were Bennington Area Aids Project, Bennington Chamber of Commerce, Bennington Museum, Bennington Project Independence, Better Bennington Corporation, Bennington Co-op Savings and Loan, Oldcastle Theatre, and the Southwestern Vermont Medical Center, and

Whereas, throughout her life, Mary Geannelis treasured her ties to the local Greek community and, while residing in Bennington, she worshipped at St. George Greek Orthodox Church in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, and St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church in Troy, New York, and

Whereas, the Bennington community recognized Mary Geannelis' special leadership skills, as she was the recipient of various awards, and

Whereas, Mary Geannelis served as a supervisor for the unorganized town of Glastenbury, and

Whereas, the community spirit that imbued Mary Geannelis was widely appreciated in the town of Bennington, and

Whereas, this gracious, modest, and highly respected citizen of Bennington died on April 14, 2019 at 85 years of age, and her survivors include her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchild, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly extends its sincere condolences to the family of Mary Nikitas Geannelis of Bennington, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Mary Geannelis' family.