

No. R-223. House concurrent resolution in memory of U.S. Navy Commander Robert Healy Eastman III.

(H.C.R.184)

Offered by: Representatives Morrissey of Bennington, Bates of Bennington, Corcoran of Bennington, and Durfee of Shaftsbury

Offered by: Senators Campion and Sears

Whereas, U.S. Navy Commander Rob Eastman's distinguished military service was combined with the friendship of his colleagues, a Vermonter's passion for skiing, a marathoner's stamina, and most importantly, the love of his wife, Sarah, and

Whereas, Rob Eastman grew up in Shaftsbury and graduated from Mt. Anthony Union High School and the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, the latter coinciding with his commissioning as a U.S. naval officer, and

Whereas, on completing rigorous flight training school, Rob Eastman was awarded the coveted U.S. naval flight officer's Wings of Gold, and

Whereas, after further flight training and deployments on the USS *Theodore Roosevelt*, his superb airmanship resulted in an assignment as a flight instructor, and

Whereas, his subsequent U.S. naval service was aboard the USS *Dwight D. Eisenhower*, at Aviano Air Base in Italy, and with the Joint Chiefs of Staff at the Pentagon, where he met Sarah Mehlhaff, and the couple were married in July 2015, and

Whereas, Commander Rob Eastman flew over 100 combat sorties in support of coalition forces in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Libya, and his overall flight record totaled 3,000 airborne hours and over 500 aircraft carrier landings, and

Whereas, he was the recipient of numerous military commendations, and

Whereas, in March 2018, Commander Rob Eastman assumed command of Electronic Attack Squadron One Three Four, based at the Naval Air Station Whidbey Island in Washington, and

Whereas, he was on a career path that would lead to his commanding a U.S. Navy aircraft carrier, and

Whereas, U.S. Navy Commander Rob Eastman died tragically and unexpectedly on February 2, 2019 at 41 years of age, will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia, and his survivors include his wife, Sarah Eastman, and his parents, Bob and Sally Eastman, of Shaftsbury, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly extends its sincere condolences to the family of U.S. Navy Commander Robert Healy Eastman III, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Commander Rob Eastman's family.