

State of Vermont

House of Representatives



Montpelier, Vermont

Concurrent House Resolution

H.C.R. 97

House concurrent resolution in memory of Ken Tohinaka

Offered by: Representatives Campbell of St. Johnsbury, Patt of Worcester, and Sullivan of Burlington

Whereas, Ken Tohinaka was one of the nation's leading developers and advisors on weatherization programs, and

Whereas, his family experienced the indignities of the World War II internment camps that Americans of Japanese ancestry had to endure, and

Whereas, Ken Tohinaka earned a bachelor's and a master's degree from the University of Utah and a doctoral degree from Temple University, and

Whereas, he served in the U.S. Army, with postings in Korea and the former West Germany, and

Whereas, in 1981, the Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity (CVOEO) appointed Ken Tohinaka as its weatherization program director, and he introduced data-driven analysis and evidence-based methodology to improve the program and support new technologies, and

Whereas, he persevered in an effort to use independent contractors and introduced the now widely accepted metric of BTUs per square foot per heating degree day, and

Whereas, after a decade of weatherization success at CVOEO, Ken Tohinaka assumed a new role as a senior weatherization consultant at the Vermont Energy Investment Corporation, where he consulted on evaluations of the U.S. Department of Energy's Weatherization Assistance Program, and

Whereas, he provided evaluations, training, and technical support for U.S. and Canadian local, state, provincial, and federal energy programs, which advanced the realization of enhancement of weatherization services, and

Whereas, the weatherization projects in which he participated often had a special focus on improving the heating efficiency in the homes of persons with low income, and he trained and mentored auditors and technicians for the Energy Star program, and

Whereas, while weatherization matters were a priority, he always found time to root for the Red Sox and possessed a unique talent for locating the best inexpensive diner when visiting a city, and

Whereas, Ken Tohinaka's partner, Shirley Haw, was central in his life, and he devoted continual attention to her needs during her long and arduous final illness, and

Whereas, Ken Tohinaka died on November 14, 2018 at his Utah home in the presence of his family, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly extends its condolences to the family of Ken Tohinaka, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the family of Ken Tohinaka.