

State of Vermont

House of Representatives



Montpelier, Vermont

Concurrent House Resolution

H.C.R. 179

House concurrent resolution congratulating Grace Cottage Family Health & Hospital on its 70th Anniversary

Offered by: Representatives Long of Newfane, Burke of Brattleboro, Coffey of Guilford, Gannon of Wilmington, Hashim of Dummerston, Kornheiser of Brattleboro, Mrowicki of Putney, Pajala of Londonderry, Partridge of Windham, Sibilias of Dover, Toleno of Brattleboro, and Trieber of Rockingham

Offered by: Senators Balint and White

Whereas, Grace Cottage Family Health & Hospital in Townshend, with its mission “[t]o serve the healthcare needs of our community; to promote wellness, relieve suffering, and restore health,” epitomizes the importance of small rural hospitals in Vermont, and

Whereas, the hospital’s original building was a home built by Reverend Horace Fletcher in 1844 that, in 1949, Miss Mary Plumb, the then owner, donated to Dr. Carlos Otis for establishing a local hospital, and

Whereas, Dr. Carlos Otis founded the hospital on August 7, 1949, naming it for the wife of his friend, Dr. Abel Grout, who offered the hospital a financial bequest, and

Whereas, on opening day, Dr. Carlos Otis and hospital staff members Eunice Bills, Bessie Leonard, Valerie Streeter, Lillian Lyons, and Emma Castle greeted 830 guests, and

Whereas, family donations of the adjacent Stratton and Heins homes in 1950 and 1978, respectively, expanded the hospital’s campus, and

Whereas, Dr. Carlos Otis was named Vermont Physician of the Year in 1984, and in 1990, the community demonstrated its support for the hospital with \$1,000,000 for the “To Be Or Not To Be” fundraising campaign, and

Whereas, improvements to the Grace Cottage campus have included the Wolff Outpatient Building in 1992; the Messenger Valley Pharmacy in 1996, which was expanded in 2012; the new 19-bed, 18,750 square-foot hospital building in 1998; the community wellness room in 2009; the diagnostic imaging suite in 2011; Dr. Carlos Otis’s daughters’ donation of the Dennison House in 2013; and the Shelia B. Friedli Entrance and Catherine B. Stratton Reception Area in 2015, and

Whereas, in 2017 and 2018, the National Rural Health Association honored Grace Cottage Hospital as a Top 20 Critical Access Hospital for “Best Practices in Patient Satisfaction,” and

Whereas, since 1949, Grace Cottage Family Health & Hospital has tirelessly served southeastern Vermont, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates Grace Cottage Family Health & Hospital on its 70th Anniversary, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Grace Cottage Family Health & Hospital.