

State of Vermont House of Representatives



Montpelier, Vermont

Concurrent House Resolution

H.C.R. 66

House concurrent resolution honoring the memory of Vermont African American pioneer Lucy Terry Prince on the bicentennial of her death

Offered by: Representatives Coffey of Guilford, Bongartz of Manchester, Durfee of Shaftsbury, and James of Manchester

Whereas, slave traders abducted Lucy Terry as a small child from her native Africa, and she was transported to Mendon, Massachusetts, and several years later to Deerfield, Massachusetts, and

Whereas, following the 1746 confrontation between Deerfield's farmers and the indigenous population, she composed the ballad *Bars Fight*, making her the first known African American poet, and

Whereas, in 1756, Lucy Terry married a formerly enslaved man, Abijah Prince, and they settled in Deerfield to raise a family and later settled on 100 acres in Guilford, and

Whereas, after incidents of harassment and property damage, she secured an order of protection when she brought her grievances to the Governor and Council, and

Whereas, in 1803, Lucy Terry Prince's sons brought a land dispute case in Sunderland that eventually reached the Vermont Supreme Court, and Sunderland settled her and her remaining family on a town lot where she remained until her death in 1821, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors the memory of Vermont African American pioneer Lucy Terry Prince on the bicentennial of her death, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Guilford and Sunderland Town Clerks, and to the Brattleboro Words Project.