

No. R-16. House concurrent resolution in memory of extraordinary Bennington K-9 Police Officer Gracie.

(H.C.R.11)

Offered by Representatives Morrissey of Bennington, Cooper of Pownal, Corcoran of Bennington, Durfee of Shaftsbury, Greer of Bennington, Hunter of Manchester, James of Manchester, Nigro of Bennington, and Pinsonault of Dorset

Offered by Senators Bongartz and Plunkett

Whereas, K-9 police officers serve a unique and essential law enforcement role, and this fact has been especially reflected in the operations of the Bennington Police Department, where K-9 Gracie was a star of much renown, serving in a program that Bennington Police Chief Paul J. Doucette Jr. and Lt. Camillo A. Grande established, and

Whereas, the achievements of this dedicated police officer were undeniably impressive as enumerated in her over 500 deployments and location of more than 70 persons, and she mightily contributed to the recovery of drugs and currency valued in excess of \$1.6 million, and

Whereas, her service on behalf of the Bennington citizenry was widely respected, and this stalwart police officer was a welcomed visitor at local schools and was present at many community events, and

Whereas, her sudden death on Thanksgiving Day, November 28, 2024, shocked and saddened Benningtonians, and

Whereas, her memorial service, with more than 500 persons in attendance, served as a dignified and emotional farewell featuring the participation of many fans and admirers; a choral musical performance; the presentation of a tribute American flag to Gracie's human caretaker, Officer Robert Murawski; and concluded with a much-befitting 21-gun salute, and

Whereas, a new K-9 training yard, to be constructed in Bennington, will be dedicated in K-9 Gracie's honor, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly extends its condolences to the Bennington Police Department and the many admirers of K-9 Gracie on the death of this outstanding police officer, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Bennington Police Department, Police Chief Paul J. Doucette Jr., Lt. Camillo A. Grande, and Officer Robert Murawski.