

No. R-40. House concurrent resolution in memory of former University of Vermont associate professor, poet, and community leader Mary Jane Dickerson.

(H.C.R.31)

Offered by Representatives Graning of Jericho and Squirrell of Underhill

Whereas, Mary Jane Dickerson graduated from the former Woman's College at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and earned a master's degree in English from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, where she met her future husband, the late A. Inskip Dickerson Jr., both destined to become University of Vermont (UVM) English professors, and

Whereas, her UVM career roles were director of freshman English, associate director of writing, and ultimately associate professor of English; and she developed a course in women's autobiography and UVM's first class in African American literature, and

Whereas, Mary Jane Dickerson was the recipient of UVM's George V. Kidder Outstanding Faculty Award; in 2007, established the Mary Jane Dickerson Scholarship Fund to support English majors; was delighted to teach as a visiting scholar in Japan and South Africa; and in 2016, was honored with induction into the distinguished society of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and

Whereas, she applied her literary expertise to teaching classes in reading and writing at local libraries; serving on the faculty of the New England Young Writers' Conference at Middlebury College's Bread Loaf School of English; and publishing two volumes of poetry, *Water Journeys in Art and Poetry* and *Tapping the Center of Things: Poems*, and her community service consisted of serving on the boards of UVM's Fleming Museum and the Deborah Rawson Memorial Library in Jericho, on the Jericho Zoning Board of Adjustment and Board of Civil Authority, and as the Jericho Center Preservation Association Treasurer; and she was active in local Democratic politics, and

Whereas, Mary Jane Dickerson, a cherished friend to many, who took great pride in cofounding Sundog Poetry, an organization that supports Vermont poets, and whose passion for North Carolina's Sandhills endured, died on October 3, 2024 at 87 years of age, and is survived by her children and grandchildren, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly extends its sincere condolences to the family of Mary Jane Dickerson, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the family of Mary Jane Dickerson and the Jericho Town Clerk.