

No. R-281. House concurrent resolution in memory of respected legal community leader, linguist, and musician Robert D. Rachlin.

(H.C.R.229)

Offered by Representatives Dodge of Essex and Ode of Burlington

Whereas, during his long and active life, Bob Rachlin pursued diverse professional and personal interests with curiosity, discipline, devotion, and intellectual rigor, and

Whereas, whether engaged as an attorney, a role which ranged from the representation of individuals, small businesses, and major corporations before the Vermont Judiciary to working pro bono on behalf of federal terrorism detainees held at Guantanamo, Cuba; serving as a visiting associate professor and trustee at Vermont Law School; performing a piano concerto or sonata in a chamber ensemble or as a soloist; teaching college students a foreign language (he was proficient in six); serving as an adjunct lecturer in the German, Russian, and Hebrew Program at the University of Vermont; or engaged in Jewish studies with the Burlington Chabad community, he brought an enthusiastic passion to all these endeavors, and

Whereas, born in West Hartford, Connecticut, Bob Rachlin graduated from Yale University and the University of Chicago Law School, and

Whereas, in 1959, he moved to St. Johnsbury and established a legal partnership with John Downs, and with the later addition of Allen Martin, the three attorneys grew their law firm, Downs Rachlin Martin (DRM), into one of Vermont's largest and most respected; he was instrumental in developing the firm's Burlington office and, for over 60 years, was one of the State's leading legal practitioners, and

Whereas, Bob Rachlin's adventurous curiosity motivated him to earn not only a pilot's license, but also the more advanced instrument-landing rating; he also served as a flight instructor and, for many years, owned his own plane, and

Whereas, when welcoming new attorneys to DRM, he would offer tidbits of legal-practicing wisdom, such as higher expectations lead to improved performance, integrity is more important than winning, take the time to communicate clearly and concisely, have fun and don't take yourself too seriously, keep your mouth shut when you are winning, and the sage advice that there is more to life than billing time, and

Whereas, on his death at 89 years of age on December 27, 2025, Bob Rachlin left an enduring legacy, and his survivors include his wife of 45 years, Catherine; his children; grandchildren; and great-grandchildren, and many friends and colleagues will fondly miss him, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly extends its sincere condolences to the family of Robert D. Rachlin, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the family of Bob Rachlin and to DRM.