

No. R-302. House concurrent resolution honoring the extraordinary life and artistic achievements of former Representative John Killacky of South Burlington.

(H.C.R.250)

Offered by Representatives Stevens of Waterbury, Bluemle of Burlington, Burrows of West Windsor, Krasnow of South Burlington, Burkhardt of South Burlington, LaLonde of South Burlington, Minier of South Burlington, and Nugent of South Burlington

Offered by Senator Chittenden

Whereas, John Killacky, the much-honored artistic administrator and commentator; filmmaker; visual artist; former legislator; gay activist; and, perhaps most importantly, dancer and athlete, who became a paraplegic due to a surgical mishap, has persevered and maximized life's opportunities, and

Whereas, his innovative and stellar leadership as an artistic administrator began as a program officer at the Pew Charitable Trusts; continued as the performing arts curator at the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis, Minnesota; and proceeded west to California, where he served as the executive director of the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts in San Francisco and later served as the program director of the San Francisco Foundation, one of the nation's largest community foundations, and

Whereas, John Killacky; his husband, Larry Connolly; and John's beloved Shetland pony, Pacific Raindrop, next headed east to Vermont, where he assumed a new challenge as the executive director of Burlington's Flynn Center for the Performing Arts (2010–2018), and his abundant creativity fostered programs for young students, promoting inclusivity, artistic excitement, and excellence while not exceeding budgetary limitations, and

Whereas, for two terms (2019–2022), John Killacky represented his South Burlington neighbors in the General Assembly, serving on the House Committee on General and Housing and advocating for inclusivity, environmental protection, and a more just society, and

Whereas, recently, his 2025 film *Corpus*, “a meditative reflection of our bodies that have been demonized, weaponized, [and] politicized,” in conjunction with a floor covering and wall-hanging shroud were featured in the recent Burlington City Arts Center exhibit, *Do We Say Goodbye? Grief, Loss, and Mourning*; the two visual pieces and another film, *Stillpoint*, have been exhibited in galleries in Philadelphia and West Virginia; his film on the Fluxus art movement was shown at England's De Montfort University's Leicester Gallery; three of his recent films will be televised on Vermont Public and Maine Public; and he is eagerly anticipating a residency to sculpt at the Vermont Studio Center in Johnson, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors the extraordinary life and artistic achievements of former Representative John Killacky of South Burlington, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to John Killacky.