

No. R-317. House concurrent resolution congratulating Terese Black on being named the 2026 Vermont Mother of the Year.

(H.C.R.259)

Offered by Representatives Branagan of Georgia, Austin of Colchester, Bartley of Fairfax, Bosch of Clarendon, Burkhardt of South Burlington, Burrows of West Windsor, Burt of Cabot, Canfield of Fair Haven, Coffin of Cavendish, Dodge of Essex, Durfee of Shaftsbury, Goslant of Northfield, Greer of Bennington, Gregoire of Fairfield, Hango of Berkshire, Headrick of Burlington, Holcombe of Norwich, Howard of Rutland City, Howland of Rutland Town, Kimbell of Woodstock, Kleppner of Burlington, Lipsky of Stowe, Logan of Burlington, Maguire of Rutland City, Malay of Pittsford, Masland of Thetford, McCoy of Poultney, Morgan, M. of Milton, Morris of Springfield, North of Ferrisburgh, Ode of Burlington, Parsons of Newbury, Pinsonault of Dorset, Pritchard of Pawlet, Quimby of Lyndon, Sweeney of Shelburne, Tagliavia of Corinth, and Winter of Ludlow

Offered by Senators Chittenden, Collamore, Mattos, Norris, Perchlik, and Williams

Whereas, for approximately nine decades, the American Mothers, Inc. organization has annually honored a mother in each state and territory who “embodies traits highly regarded in mothers and displays the ability to strengthen family relationships through maternal energy,” and

Whereas, the 2026 Vermont Mother of the Year is Terese Black, the mother of two children and a “bonus” stepchild, and

Whereas, Terese Black has been described as “a gifted mother, generous to people from all walks of life, and a loving friend to many in the community,” and

Whereas, her professional career has centered on helping others improve their lives, and, for 18 years, she was a teacher in elementary, junior high, and high school classrooms in Iowa, Chicago, and Vermont, and

Whereas, the career of Terese Black moved in a new direction when she started a 16-year tenure as the director of Rutland Dismas House, a residential organization that “reconcile[s] former prisoners with society and society with former prisoners,” an important transitional process that assists the residents in rebuilding their lives, and among other current volunteer roles, she now chairs the governing council, and

Whereas, the other community groups with which she has been associated are the Mentor Connector (mentoring a youth for five years), VeggieVanGo, the former Companions in Wholeness, and Bridge to Rutland (hosting a female asylum seeker for 10 months), and

Whereas, for Terese Black, her Catholic faith has been paramount, and, for many years, she has been associated in various ways with the Sisters of the Presentation in Dubuque, Iowa; is a member of the Sophia Sisters Prayer Group in Rutland and Concerned Catholics of Vermont; has served on the council at Christ the King parish in Rutland; and plays the guitar with a folk group at St. Alphonsus Ligouri in Pittsford, and

Whereas, for all these exemplary roles, Terese Black is an ideal Vermont Mother of the Year, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates Terese Black on being named the 2026 Vermont Mother of the Year, *and be it further*

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