

No. R-358. House concurrent resolution in memory of global gay rights advocate, political activist, culinary bibliophile, and chocolatier maven Terje Anderson.

(H.C.R.300)

Offered by Representatives Greer of Bennington, Casey of Montpelier, Arsenault of Williston, Austin of Colchester, Bartholomew of Hartland, Berbeco of Winooski, Birong of Vergennes, Bishop of Colchester, Black of Essex, Bluemle of Burlington, Bos-Lun of Westminster, Boyden of Cambridge, Brady of Williston, Brown of Richmond, Burke of Brattleboro, Burkhardt of South Burlington, Burrows of West Windsor, Campbell of St. Johnsbury, Carris Duncan of Whitingham, Chapin of East Montpelier, Christie of Hartford, Cole of Hartford, Conlon of Cornwall, Cooper of Pownal, Corcoran of Bennington, Critchlow of Colchester, Dodge of Essex, Dolan of Essex Junction, Duke of Burlington, Durfee of Shaftsbury, Eastes of Guilford, Emmons of Springfield, Garofano of Essex, Goldman of Rockingham, Goodnow of Brattleboro, Graning of Jericho, Harple of Glover, Holcombe of Norwich, Hooper of Randolph, Houghton of Essex Junction, Howard of Rutland City, Hoyt of Hartford, Hunter of Manchester, James of Manchester, Kimbell of Woodstock, Kleppner of Burlington, Kornheiser of Brattleboro, Krasnow of South Burlington, Krowinski of Burlington, Lalley of Shelburne, LaLonde of South Burlington, LaMont of Morristown, Long of Newfane, Lueders of Lincoln, Masland of Thetford, McCann of Montpelier, McGill of Bridport, Mihaly of Calais, Minier of South Burlington, Morris of Springfield, Morrow of Weston, Mrowicki of Putney, Nigro of Bennington, Noyes of Wolcott, Nugent of South Burlington, O'Brien of Tunbridge, Ode of Burlington, Olson of Starksboro, Pezzo of Colchester, Pouech of Hinesburg, Priestley of Bradford, Rachelson of Burlington, Satcowitz of Randolph, Scheu of Middlebury, Scully of Burlington, Sheldon of Middlebury, Squirrell of Underhill, Stevens of Waterbury, Stone of Burlington, Sweeney of Shelburne, Torre of Moretown, Waszazak of Barre City, Waters Evans of Charlotte, White of Waitsfield, White of Bethel, Wood of Waterbury, and Yacovone of Morristown

Whereas, Terje Anderson (who legally changed his name from James to honor his Swedish heritage) was born on June 29, 1958, in Indiana, Pennsylvania; attended McGill University; became fluent in French; developed a lifelong interest in Canadian politics; acquired a taste for Montreal's restaurants, the start of his passions as an enthusiastic culinary bibliophile and chocolatier; and derived great joy from being a dog owner, and

Whereas, beyond the classroom, he embarked on a life dedicated to social justice and fairness for all, navigating his status as a gay man in an era when gay rights were sparse and often vehemently opposed locally, nationally, and internationally, and

Whereas, early on, he served as the Vermont Department of Health's AIDS program chief and was a cofounder of Vermont CARES, the State's first AIDS service organization, and

Whereas, Terje Anderson became executive director of the Southern Colorado AIDS Project in Colorado Springs; was appointed to the Colorado Governor's AIDS Council; served as a member of Colorado's HIV Prevention Community Planning Group and on the Clinton Administration's Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS; and,

eventually, moved to Washington, DC, to become the executive director of the National Association of People with AIDS, a position that included an extensive international component; but ultimately, the beauty of Vermont called him north, and he settled in an inviting, former one-room schoolhouse in Montgomery, and

Whereas, his political involvement began as a volunteer at 14 years of age on the 1972 Shirley Chisholm presidential primary campaign; he was a leader of Jesse Jackson's 1984 delegation to the Democratic National Convention (DNC); in 1992, he served as the first openly gay individual to chair a state delegation to the DNC; in 2017, the Vermont Democratic Party elected him as its chair; and, in 2020, as a Vermont Electoral College elector, Terje Anderson appeared live on national television as the Vermont delegation cast its votes for Joe Biden, and

Whereas, most recently, he enjoyed working at the Jay Peak Resort, performing informational and troubleshooting roles, and

Whereas, Terje Anderson's pathbreaking life ended with his premature death in a tragic house fire on March 15, 2026, at 67 years of age, and his survivors include his sister, Kim Anderson Via; his two nephews; and many friends around the world, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly expresses its sincere condolences to the family and friends of Terje Anderson, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the family of Terje Anderson and to the Vermont Democratic Party.