

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

ADDENDUM

TO THE

HOUSE CALENDAR

**Text of House Concurrent
Resolutions**

of

January 30, 2025

Concurrent Resolutions for Adoption Under Joint Rules 16a -16d

The following concurrent resolutions will be adopted automatically unless a Senator or Representative requests floor consideration in the member's chamber prior to adjournment of the next legislative day. Requests for floor consideration in either chamber should be communicated to the Senate Secretary's Office or the House Clerk's Office, as applicable.

H.C.R. 10

Offered by Representative McGill of Bridport

House concurrent resolution designating February 6, 2025 as 3SquaresVT Awareness Day at the State House

Whereas, food shelves, food pantries, meal sites, senior meal programs, the Vermont Foodbank, emergency shelters, Area Agencies on Aging, community groups, businesses, health providers, statewide coalitions, faith-based organizations, and concerned and dedicated individuals are working to end hunger in Vermont, and

Whereas, a major support for this effort is 3SquaresVT, the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) in Vermont that the Department for Children and Families' Economic Services Division administers, and

Whereas, 3SquaresVT is an extremely effective and efficient antihunger program providing nine meals for every one meal that the charitable food system offers, and

Whereas, more than 65,000 Vermonters, comprising nearly 40,000 households of all ages and demographics, are recipients of 3SquaresVT benefits, and

Whereas, a large segment of 3SquaresVT recipients are children, seniors, or people living with disabilities, and

Whereas, 3SquaresVT serves the food needs of friends, neighbors, and families with privacy and dignity and mitigates the impact of poverty on our most vulnerable residents, and

Whereas, this federal program strengthens the economic vitality of Vermont's local communities and businesses, such as grocers and farmers, and our State economy, by keeping redeemed benefits from each meal within our State, and

Whereas, the most recent data from the U.S. Department of Agriculture shows that the number of people at risk of hunger is only increasing, particularly households with children, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly designates February 6, 2025 as 3SquaresVT Awareness Day at the State House.

H.C.R. 11

Offered by Representatives Morrissey of Bennington, Cooper of Pownal, Corcoran of Bennington, Durfee of Shaftsbury, Greer of Bennington, Hunter of Manchester, James of Manchester, Nigro of Bennington, and Pinsonault of Dorset

Offered by Senators Bongartz and Plunkett

House concurrent resolution in memory of extraordinary Bennington K-9 Police Officer Gracie

Whereas, K-9 police officers serve a unique and essential law enforcement role, and this fact has been especially reflected in the operations of the Bennington Police Department, where K-9 Gracie was a star of much renown, serving in a program that Bennington Police Chief Paul J. Doucette Jr. and Lt. Camillo A. Grande established, and

Whereas, the achievements of this dedicated police officer were undeniably impressive as enumerated in her over 500 deployments and location of more than 70 persons, and she mightily contributed to the recovery of drugs and currency valued in excess of \$1.6 million, and

Whereas, her service on behalf of the Bennington citizenry was widely respected, and this stalwart police officer was a welcomed visitor at local schools and was present at many community events, and

Whereas, her sudden death on Thanksgiving Day, November 28, 2024, shocked and saddened Benningtonians, and

Whereas, her memorial service, with more than 500 persons in attendance, served as a dignified and emotional farewell featuring the participation of many fans and admirers; a choral musical performance; the presentation of a tribute American flag to Gracie's human caretaker, Officer Robert Murawski; and concluded with a much-befitting 21-gun salute, and

Whereas, a new K-9 training yard, to be constructed in Bennington, will be dedicated in K-9 Gracie's honor, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly extends its condolences to the Bennington Police Department and the many admirers of K-9 Gracie on the death of this outstanding police officer, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Bennington Police Department, Police Chief Paul J. Doucette Jr., Lt. Camillo A. Grande, and Officer Robert Murawski.

H.C.R. 12

Offered by All Members of the House

Offered by All Members of the Senate

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2024 University of Vermont Catamounts on winning their school's first NCAA Division I men's soccer championship (College Cup)

Whereas, the saga of the 2024 University of Vermont (UVM) men's soccer squad, affectionately known as the "Cardiac Cats" in honor of their late game-winning goals, exceeds the allure of a Grimm Brothers' fairy tale, and

Whereas, although they were the 2024 America East men's soccer champions, unseeded UVM astounded the pundits as the Catamounts reached the coveted semifinal round, winning this penultimate soccer challenge against the third-seeded University of Denver in a thrilling 4–3 overtime triumph, and

Whereas, in the championship game, played at the WakeMed Soccer Park in Cary, North Carolina, and bound for legendary status, UVM faced 13th-ranked Marshall University; and despite Marshall scoring first at the 67-minute mark, UVM rebounded with a goal in the 81st minute, forcing the game into a climactic overtime period, when the Cardiac Cats (16–2–6) clinched the NCAA title with a decisive goal less than five minutes into the extra time frame, and

Whereas, these amazing Catamounts were Lou Liedtka, Niklas Herceg, Nathan Siméon, Mike Bleeker, Cole Richardson, Adrian Schulze Solano, Connor Thompson, Andrew Millar, Niels Hartman, Maximilian Kissel, Nick Lockermann, Yaniv Bazini, Nash Barlow, David Ismail, Ethan Czaporowski, Gianluca Armellino, Ioannis Vassiliou, Marcell Papp, Toby Grant, Karl Daly, Sydney Wathuta, TJ Liquori, Pieter Bultman, Ryan Zellefrow, Zach Barrett, Jeremy Tsang, Max Murray, and Mitchell Ringman, and

Whereas, Head Coach Robert Dow, Associate Head Coach Brad Cole, Assistant Coach Rory Twomey, Goalkeeper Coach Brendan Pulley, Assistant

Athletic Performance Coach Mike Ederer, Athletic Trainer Hannah Tremel, Director of Operations Mack Walton, and student managers Eli Ross and Eric Bissell were all elated with this amazing victory, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the 2024 University of Vermont Catamounts on winning their school's first NCAA Division I men's soccer championship (College Cup), *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the University of Vermont Athletics Department.

H.C.R. 13

Offered by All Members of the House

House concurrent resolution in memory of the former esteemed Clerk of the Vermont House of Representatives Robert Louis Picher of Winooski

Whereas, dispassionate, informed, and nonpartisan are all essential attributes for the Clerk of the House of Representatives, and for three decades in this role (1963–1993), and again in 2002 on an acting basis, House Clerk Bob Picher always adhered to these core principles, as was reflected in his election, during the 1980s, as President of the American Society of Legislative Clerks and Secretaries, and

Whereas, Bob Picher, a lifelong resident of Winooski, was born on July 30, 1924, and graduated from the former Cathedral High School in Burlington; Assumption College (University) in Worcester, Massachusetts; and Georgetown University Law School in Washington, DC, and

Whereas, he served in Europe as a World War II U.S. Army combat platoon leader, returned to active duty during the Korean Conflict, achieved the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the Vermont National Guard, and was the Commander of and a Major General in the Vermont State Guard, and

Whereas, a respected lawyer, Bob Picher was an extraordinary public servant, who, prior to his election as Clerk of the House, served as Executive Clerk to Governor Joseph B. Johnson and as Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs under Governor Robert T. Stafford, and

Whereas, locally, he was elected as a zoning board member, justice of the peace, and grand juror, and

Whereas, Bob Picher's religious and musical passions found commonality as a parishioner, chorister, and choral director at St. Francis Xavier Church; he also sang in the South Burlington Community Chorus; and he enjoyed other

voluntary roles related to his French-Canadian heritage, veterans' affairs, and the Winooski community's history, and

Whereas, Bob Picher died on May 10, 2024, at 99 years of age, and his survivors include his children, grandchildren, and great-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 the former esteemed Clerk of the Vermont House of Representatives Robert Louis Picher, *and be it further*

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

H.C.R. 14

Offered by Representative Mrowicki of Putney

House concurrent resolution congratulating the Putney Library on the 20th anniversary of its current home

Whereas, a public library is a cultural, literary, and informational resource that enlightens and enriches a community, and this is certainly true in the Town of Putney, where the library's centuries of institutional history represent continuity and strength, and

Whereas, the citizens of Putney established their town's library in 1793, proceeded to incorporate it in 1800, appropriated municipal funds to this newly designated public library in 1896, and allocated town hall space for the facility starting in 1908, and

Whereas, across the decades, the Putney Library has been located at a minimum of six different locations, and its current home, opened on January 5, 2005, came to fruition due to the championship of Putney resident David Rothchild, whose vision inspired the community to raise the necessary funds, mostly from town residents, in order to construct an attractive locally designed and built facility at 55 Main Street, and

Whereas, the Putney Library serves the community's 2,600 residents, as well as patrons from surrounding towns, and it provides a safe and welcoming space that offers activities and programs for persons of all ages and interests, and

Whereas, as an educational center, the Putney Library offers lifelong learning opportunities, free and comprehensive computer service with

24/7 Wi-Fi access, and the space and opportunities for local artists to exhibit and present lectures explaining their creations, and

Whereas, the knowledgeable and congenial staff is most helpful and fosters community connection, and the library continues to serve Putney proudly and with sincere dedication, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the Putney Library on the 20th anniversary of its current home, *and be it further*

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

H.C.R. 15

Offered by Representatives Morrissey of Bennington, Cooper of Pownal, Corcoran of Bennington, Durfee of Shaftsbury, Greer of Bennington, Hunter of Manchester, James of Manchester, Nigro of Bennington, and Pinsonault of Dorset

Offered by Senators Bongartz and Plunkett

House concurrent resolution congratulating former Bennington Acting Police Chief Wally Mattison on his centennial birthday

Whereas, Wally Mattison, whose illustrious service on behalf of his nation and hometown is highly noteworthy, and he is greatly admired in Bennington, and

Whereas, he was born on September 5, 1924 in Bennington, growing up in a large family with seven siblings, and

Whereas, in 1943, during the height of World War II, teenager Wally Mattison was inducted into the U.S. Army, and

Whereas, in March 1944, upon completion of light machine-gunner training, he was deployed to the European Theater of Operations and assigned to the 29th Infantry Division, landing in France shortly after D-Day and serving as a frontline participant in the Normandy Campaign, and

Whereas, on September 12, 1944, Wally Mattison sustained a bullet wound to his lower back and was awarded both a Purple Heart and later the French Medal of Honor—that nation’s highest civil and military decoration, and

Whereas, near the conclusion of hostilities in Europe, he served in Germany, behind enemy lines, and was assigned the duty of checking houses for weapons and soldiers, and

Whereas, following his honorable military discharge, Wally Mattison returned home to Bennington, embarking on a distinguished 40-year career as a member of the Bennington Police Department, rising to the rank of captain, and retiring as the department's much respected acting chief, and

Whereas, in September 2024, a festive celebration, including his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren; co-workers; and many friends, was held at the Bennington Elks Club on the occasion of his 100th birthday, and

Whereas, at the event, the Bennington Sheriff announced the establishment of an annual \$1,000 scholarship in Wally Mattison's honor to be awarded to a deserving recipient aspiring to a law enforcement career, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates former Bennington Acting Police Chief Wally Mattison on his centennial birthday, *and be it further*

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

H.C.R. 16

Offered by Representatives Morrissey of Bennington, Cooper of Pownal, Corcoran of Bennington, Durfee of Shaftsbury, Greer of Bennington, Hunter of Manchester, James of Manchester, Nigro of Bennington, and Pinsonault of Dorset

Offered by Senators Bongartz and Plunkett

House concurrent resolution in memory of former Bennington Select Board Chair, Representative, and Assistant Judge James H. Colvin

Whereas, Jim Colvin, a native of Bennington, graduated from Bennington High School and Central Missouri State University, and he subsequently earned a master's degree, and

Whereas, as an educator, he taught science at Mount Anthony Union High School, worked as a guidance counselor, and completed his career in this field as the principal of Molly Stark Elementary School, and

Whereas, as an entrepreneur, Jim Colvin purchased, operated, and expanded the Bennington Car Wash; established the Bennington Express Lube in 2002; and managed Catamount Pellet Fuel Corporation in Adams, Massachusetts, and

Whereas, most notably, Jim Colvin's distinguished public service began in 1979 as a Bennington Select Board member, including five years chairing its

municipal panel; and subsequently, he served as town manager; one of the community's listers; and as the town's moderator, a role that required his oversight of parliamentary decorum at town meetings, and

Whereas, in 1998, Jim Colvin was elected for the first of two consecutive terms to the House of Representatives, and despite his relatively brief legislative tenure, he was honored to serve as the House Committee on Commerce chair, and

Whereas, Jim Colvin continued his public service in the Judicial Branch, serving as a Bennington County assistant judge for over two decades, from 2002–2023, and

Whereas, this dedicated public servant and admired civic leader died on September 20, 2024, at 77 years of age, and his survivors include his wife, Lodie; his daughters; and his 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 former Bennington Select Board Chair, Representative, and Assistant Judge James H. Colvin, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the family of Jim Colvin.

H.C.R. 17

Offered by Representatives Morrissey of Bennington, Corcoran of Bennington, Greer of Bennington, James of Manchester, Nigro of Bennington, and Pinsonault of Dorset

Offered by Senators Bongartz and Plunkett

House concurrent resolution honoring the Green Mountain Hometown Heroes Banner Program and its recognized members of the U.S. Armed Forces

Whereas, starting in 2024, the Green Mountain Hometown Heroes Corporation, in collaboration with Bennington American Legion Post 13 Riders and the Bennington VFW Post 1332 Riders, organized a commemorative display of customized banners along Route 7, extending from Four Corners in downtown Bennington to the Vermont Veterans' Home, honoring past and present Bennington-associated members of our nation's armed forces who served in the U.S. Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, Merchant Marines, Navy, Space Force, and the Vermont National Guard, and

Whereas, the individuals who were recognized served in military conflicts as long ago as the Civil War and in the Spanish-American War, World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Gulf War, and the Global War on Terror, and

Whereas, this special celebration enabled family members or descendants to commemorate their loved ones who are on active duty, who were honorably discharged, or who were killed while serving our country, and

Whereas, this patriotic tribute to Bennington's military veterans became a reality due to successful partnerships with the Bennington Select Board and Town Manager, who granted official approval for this innovative endeavor; Bennington's public works crew, which installed the banners; and Green Mountain Power, which gave permission for the banners to be displayed on its utility poles, and

Whereas, on November 11, 2024, Veterans Day, the Green Mountain Hometown Heroes Banner Program was formally dedicated in a solemnly reflective ceremony occurring in Bennington, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors the Green Mountain Hometown Heroes Banner Program and its recognized members of the U.S. Armed Forces, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Green Mountain Hometown Heroes Corporation, Bennington American Legion Post 13 Riders, Bennington VFW Post 1332 Riders, the Bennington Town Manager, and Green Mountain Power.

H.C.R. 18

Offered by Representatives Sibilias of Dover, Cooper of Pownal, and Greer of Bennington

House concurrent resolution honoring Vermont's communications union districts for their visionary leadership and effective efforts in bringing world-class fiber-optic service to rural communities

Whereas, reliable broadband is a critical utility that enhances economic development, supports educational opportunities, facilitates telehealth services, enables remote work, and strengthens communities, and

Whereas, in order to solve the rural broadband crisis in Vermont, in 2015 Acts and Resolves No. 41, codified as 30 V.S.A. chapter 82, the General

Assembly established the process for the formation and operation of a communications union district (CUD), and

Whereas, the CUD structure places long-term control of fiber-broadband assets in the hands of Vermonters through a governing board consisting of one representative from each town in the CUD, and

Whereas, these unique municipal subdivisions, currently nine in number, serve a pivotal role in addressing Vermont's digital divide, and their financing is acquired through the leveraging of municipal revenue bonds, securing grants from the Vermont Community Broadband Fund, entering into public-private partnerships, and using other financial resources, all without triggering financial liability for CUD member communities or individuals, and

Whereas, the leadership, staff, and volunteers of the CUDs have demonstrated extraordinary dedication and collaboration in their establishment of fiber-optic infrastructure in rural and remote areas of Vermont, resulting in a reduction from 100,000 to 20,000 of internet addresses with no or subpar broadband service, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors Vermont's communications union districts for their visionary leadership and effective efforts in bringing world-class fiber-optic service to rural communities, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to each CUD, the Vermont Community Development Board, and Governor Philip B. Scott.