

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

ADDENDUM

TO THE

HOUSE CALENDAR

**Text of House Concurrent
Resolutions**

of

May 14, 2026

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. 294

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 honoring Nicholas Monte, Bennington County's chocolatier extraordinaire

Whereas, in 1988, Nick Monte and his wife, Judy, opened the Village Peddler gift store in East Arlington, allegedly to slow down from being a general store owner in Arlington, and he introduced chocolate into the store, thus beginning a second-career journey as a chocolatier, and

Whereas, his chocolate talents are an amalgamation of creative artistry and technical expertise, using specialized tools, including an enrober, a cooling tunnel, and tempering machines, and

Whereas, the delicious confection's presence has expanded to include the Chocolatorium, a unique chocolate exhibit and a fun place to explore that welcomes visitors to "immerse yourself in the wonderful world of chocolate," through a film, self-guided tour, or participation in a chocolate-making experience that allows visitors to become chocolatiers, and

Whereas, in 2002, Nick Monte expanded his chocolate domain, opening the Village Chocolate Shoppe (VCS) in Bennington, the home of Benny, the 100-pound chocolate moose and his wife, Molly, and

Whereas, that same year, Nick Monte greatly enhanced his chocolatiering skills when, as a nontraditional older student, he graduated from the intensive candy school program offered by Retail Confectioners International (RCI) at Gannon University in Erie, Pennsylvania, and

Whereas, in 2004, he became the host of summertime family-friendly events for chocolate lovers of all ages, including fundraising programs for local causes, and

Whereas, for 15 years, Nick Monte has been a proud exhibitor in the Vermont building at the Eastern States Exhibition in West Springfield, Massachusetts, specializing in chocolates, caramels, and caramel apples, and

Whereas, in 2013, as a fundraising event for the Bennington-based Project Against Violent Encounters, the VCS set out to establish a record for the world's largest peanut butter cup, and

Whereas, twice, his colleagues specializing in chocolate honored him with the RCI's best Easter idea award; in 2001, for the "Patches Family" and, in 2024, for "Rabbit Stew," and

Whereas, when not making chocolate treats, Nick Monte is a proud Lions Club member, an association dating back half a century, and

Whereas, in a familial collaboration with his wife, Judy; daughters Denise and Sherry; and son Ken, Nick Monte, at 88 years of age, continues his amazing career in the world of chocolate, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors Nicholas Monte, Bennington County's chocolatier extraordinaire, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Nick Monte, the Village Chocolate Shoppe, and the Village Peddler.

H.C.R. 295

Offered by Representatives Greer of Bennington, Morrissey of Bennington, Cooper of Pownal, Corcoran of Bennington, Durfee of Shaftsbury, and Nigro of Bennington

Offered by Senators Bongartz and Plunkett

House concurrent resolution honoring Patricia Gibbons for her extraordinary half-century teaching career in the Town of Bennington

Whereas, in September 1975, Patricia Gibbons became a member of the faculty at Mount Anthony Union High School in the Town of Bennington, and

Whereas, after three short years of high school teaching, recognizing that the high school pace did not match her preferred teaching style, she transferred to the North Bennington Graded School, now known as the Village School of North Bennington, and

Whereas, this new scholastic setting proved ideal, and she has described her good fortune to teach at this school as having "won the lottery," and

Whereas, with great creativity, Pat Gibbons taught reading and the magic of books to her students in her third through sixth grade classes at the school, and

Whereas, her remarkable pedagogical record served as a pillar of the school, which, during her tenure, transformed in many ways, and

Whereas, Pat Gibbons's nearly 50 years of faculty service at the Village School of North Bennington represents an exemplary testament to her love of learning and to the North Bennington community, and

Whereas, she has touched countless lives, nurturing and inspiring generations of students with kindness, wisdom, and an unwavering commitment to providing them with the best possible education, and

Whereas, after nearly five decades of educating the children of North Bennington, Pat Gibbons's decision to put down her pencil and chalk represents the end of an era that many will long cherish and remember, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors Patricia Gibbons for her extraordinary half-century teaching career in the Town of Bennington, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Pat Gibbons, the Village School of North Bennington, and the North Bennington Village Board of Trustees.

H.C.R. 296

Offered by Representatives Greer of Bennington, Morrissey of Bennington, Cooper of Pownal, Corcoran of Bennington, Durfee of Shaftsbury, and Nigro of Bennington

Offered by Senators Bongartz and Plunkett

House concurrent resolution congratulating Inspirational Bible Book & Gifts of Bennington, Vermont's last remaining Christian bookstore, on its 50th anniversary

Whereas, religion has always played a central role in the life of Jacob Esh, who was born in 1941 and raised in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, in a traditional Amish farming family, and

Whereas, in 1970, he married Lorraine, with whom he has happily shared his life for the past 55 years, and they began selling Christian books from store racks located in bus stations, grocery stores, pharmacies, and other locations, which eventually surpassed 40 points of sale, and

Whereas, in December 1975, Jacob and Lorraine Esh decided to consolidate their retail business to a single site and rented a small space inside a mall on North Street in Bennington, and

Whereas, after several moves, in 1982, Jacob and Lorraine Esh purchased a duplex at 110 County Street that would serve as their residence until 1995 and the store's home ever since, and

Whereas, sales were steady during the 1980s, when roughly 30 Christian bookstores operated in Vermont, and

Whereas, in the store's early years, approximately one-third of the revenue was derived from musical-related sales, including sheet music and CDs, and

Whereas, in the digital retail age, the market for religious-related merchandise, such as greeting cards and music products, is no longer robust, and Inspirational Bible Book & Gifts is today the last traditional Christian bookstore operating in Vermont, and

Whereas, despite this economic challenge, Jacob Esh proudly opens the store each business day, a mission based on his abiding religious faith, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates Inspirational Bible Book & Gifts of Bennington, Vermont's last remaining Christian bookstore, on its 50th anniversary, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Inspirational Bible Book & Gifts.

H.C.R. 297

Offered by Representatives Pritchard of Pawlet, Austin of Colchester, Branagan of Georgia, Canfield of Fair Haven, Casey of Hubbardton, Chapin of East Montpelier, Charlton of Chester, Demar of Enosburgh, Dickinson of St. Albans Town, Dolgin of St. Johnsbury, Goslant of Northfield, Harvey of Castleton, Hoyt of Hartford, Keyser of Rutland City, Kimbell of Woodstock, Labor of Morgan, Laroche of Franklin, Lipsky of Stowe, Maguire of Rutland City, Masland of Thetford, McCoy of Poultney, Morgan, L. of Milton, Morgan, M. of Milton, Morris of Springfield, Oliver of Sheldon, Parsons of Newbury, Pinsonault of Dorset, Powers of Waterford, Satcowitz of Randolph, Sheldon of Middlebury, Southworth of Walden, Sweeney of Shelburne, and Tagliavia of Corinth

Offered by Senators Bongartz, Collamore, Ingalls, Norris, and Weeks

House concurrent resolution honoring Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department Director of Fisheries Eric Palmer and extending future best wishes

Whereas, University of Minnesota–educated biologist Eric Palmer has epitomized leadership excellence at the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department (DFW) through significant contributions to the improvement of fisheries management in Vermont and the Northeast and in his role as a superb supervisor who encourages staff innovation and personally fulfilling professional advancement, and

Whereas, Eric Palmer began his DFW career on January 10, 1994, as a fisheries biologist, and, in 2000, a superb job performance and demonstrated leadership ability led to his appointment as DFW’s Director of Fisheries, and

Whereas, as Director of Fisheries, Eric Palmer has centered his personnel focus on collaboration and empowering and supporting his staff to pursue individual strengths and interests to foster meaningful careers, while advancing DFW’s mission and objectives, and

Whereas, not only does the staff appreciate Eric Palmer’s leadership, but his cooperative and team-based managerial approach has resulted in successful conservation projects, including enabling the positive outcome of a lake trout restoration initiative in Lake Champlain, fostering the effectiveness of the Connecticut River Atlantic Salmon Commission, developing great results with a strategic wood addition habitat project, and creating a strong and mutually advantageous system of angler communication and outreach, and

Whereas, in 2026, Eric Palmer, among whose personal milestones as DFW’s Director of Fisheries was his election and outstanding service as president of the Atlantic International Chapter of the American Fisheries Society, is concluding his stellar tenure at DFW, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department Director of Fisheries Eric Palmer and extends future best wishes, *and be it further*

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

H.C.R. 298

Offered by Representatives Greer of Bennington, Galfetti of Barre Town, Austin of Colchester, Berbeco of Winooski, Bishop of Colchester, Burrows of West Windsor, Carris Duncan of Whitingham, Coffin of Cavendish, Conlon of Cornwall, Goslant of Northfield, Gregoire of Fairfield, Hango of Berkshire,

Higley of Lowell, Howard of Rutland City, Keyser of Rutland City, Labor of Morgan, Logan of Burlington, Luneau of St. Albans City, Malay of Pittsford, Masland of Thetford, McGill of Bridport, Morgan, M. of Milton, Morrissey of Bennington, Nigro of Bennington, Noyes of Wolcott, Page of Newport City, Parsons of Newbury, Pritchard of Pawlet, Southworth of Walden, and Winter of Ludlow

House concurrent resolution recognizing the importance of the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife's fish culture program for the continued success of aquatic-resource sustainability and the availability of abundant recreational fishing opportunities in Vermont

Whereas, recreational fishing bonds family and community members, offers physical and mental health benefits, and is accessible to most Vermonters regardless of geographic location, financial means, physical ability, or developmental level, and

Whereas, the preservation and enhancement of our aquatic ecosystems helps ensure biodiversity, community health, prosperous local economies, and recreational fishing opportunities for residents and visitors, and

Whereas, Vermont's five fish culture stations (commonly referred to as fish hatcheries)—Bald Hill (Newark), Bennington, Ed Weed (Grand Isle), Roxbury, and Salisbury—annually produce more than 1.5 million fish for distribution to and stocking of the State's waters, and they play a significant role in maintaining sustainable fish populations, restoring species, and providing ample fishing resources for Vermonters and their communities, and

Whereas, abundant fish populations enhance food security, and

Whereas, fishing helps foster interest, public buy-in, and investment in clean waters, and

Whereas, maintaining an abundant fishery sustains jobs and stimulates economic growth, and

Whereas, Vermont's fish hatcheries support educational programs and partnerships that foster a better understanding of aquatic ecology, conservation, and responsible fishing practices, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly recognizes the importance of the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife's fish culture program for the continued success of aquatic-resource sustainability and the availability of abundant recreational fishing opportunities in Vermont, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife.

H.C.R. 299

Offered by Representative Chapin of East Montpelier

Offered by Senator Cummings

House concurrent resolution in memory of Elana Grace Korey and recognizing August 2, 2026, as 802 Day in Vermont

Whereas, Elana Korey of Duxbury, Massachusetts, was 20 years of age and a student at the University of Arkansas, and had strong ties to Vermont, and

Whereas, shortly after 5:00 a.m. on July 28, 2024, a foggy Sunday morning, Elana Korey was a front-seat passenger in a 2006 Lexus automobile that was traveling northbound on I-89 in Middlesex, and the highway was clear with minimal traffic, and

Whereas, tragically, the car veered off the right-hand side of the road, crashed into a rock ledge, and, on impact, was engulfed in flames, killing both Elana and the driver, who was 19 years of age, and, upon investigation, the Vermont State Police determined that the driver's blood alcohol content was above the legal limit, marijuana was present in his bloodstream, and speed was a factor in the crash, and

Whereas, the death of Elana Korey devastated her parents, Alice and Robert Korey, along with her brothers, especially as all three siblings were relatively close in age, and

Whereas, beyond mourning their daughter's loss, her parents established the Ollie's Angels Foundation, named after her beloved puppy and her "angel," and it is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit with a mission of "raising awareness about the deadly consequences of impaired and reckless driving," and dedicated to helping other families avoid a similar preventable and unimaginable loss through focusing on sober driving, accountability, and educating young adults before another highway tragedy becomes irreversible, and

Whereas, the Ollie's Angels Foundation has launched two primary projects; one, known as "Project 802 (802 Day)" takes its name from the State's closely identified telephone area code and applies it to the calendar for an annual observance on August 2, both to honor Elana Korey and to promote responsible sober driving across Vermont's communities; the second initiative, labeled "Catch a Safe Ride," encourages individuals, especially youths, to find alternative transportation if they or their intended driver is not sober, and

Whereas, to promote this important message, the Ollie's Angels Foundation is partnering with Mothers Against Drunk Driving and reaching out on Instagram and TikTok, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly extends condolences to the family of Elana Grace Korey and recognizes August 2, 2026, as 802 Day in Vermont, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Ollie's Angels Foundation.

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, Squirrel 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

House concurrent resolution in memory of global gay rights advocate, political activist, culinary bibliophile, and chocolatier maven Terje Anderson

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.

H.C.R. 301

Offered by Representatives Goslant of Northfield, Arsenault of Williston, Bartley of Fairfax, Boutin of Barre City, Branagan of Georgia, Brigham of St. Albans Town, Burditt of West Rutland, Canfield of Fair Haven, Casey of Hubbardton, Charlton of Chester, Christie of Hartford, Coffin of Cavendish, Cole of Hartford, Demar of Enosburgh, Dickinson of St. Albans Town, Dobrovich of Williamstown, Dolan of Essex Junction, Dolgin of St. Johnsbury, Goodnow of Brattleboro, Graning of Jericho, Greer of Bennington, Hango of Berkshire, Harvey of Castleton, Higley of Lowell, Houghton of Essex Junction, Kascenska of Burke, Kimbell of Woodstock, Krasnow of South Burlington, Labor of Morgan, LaLonde of South Burlington, Laroche of Franklin, Luneau of St. Albans City, Malay of Pittsford, Masland of Thetford, Morgan, L. of Milton, Morgan, M. of Milton, Morrissey of Bennington, Nelson of Derby, North of Ferrisburgh, Oliver of Sheldon, Page of Newport City, Pinsonault of Dorset, Powers of Waterford, Pritchard of Pawlet, Rachelson of Burlington, Southworth of Walden, Tagliavia of Corinth, Taylor of Mendon, and Winter of Ludlow

House concurrent resolution recognizing May 2026 as National Foster Care Month in Vermont

Whereas, according to the U.S. Department of Education, at any given time, approximately 400,000 children and youths are in foster care, and

Whereas, the foster parents in Vermont play a vital role in brightening and improving the lives of the children and youth for whom they are responsible, and their role can be transformative, and

Whereas, on May 10, 1988, at the initiative of the U.S. Children’s Bureau, President Ronald Reagan signed Presidential Proclamation 5820, establishing National Foster Care Month, shining a new light on foster care in the United States and observing that “the family has the prime responsibility for nurturing children ... [but] some parents are unable to provide a minimally acceptable level of care for their children, and temporary or permanent alternative placement is necessary ... [and foster care provides] the opportunity to live in healthy loving homes,” and

Whereas, on April 30, 2026, President Donald J. Trump signed Presidential Proclamation 11023 designating May 2026 as this year’s National Foster Care Month, “celebrating the foster families whose devotion carries our youngest

citizens forward by helping them realize the full potential of their unique American Dream,” and

Whereas, “Engaging Youth. Building Supports. Strengthening Opportunities.” is the 2026 theme for National Foster Care Month, which “highlights the need to create a child welfare system that authentically engages and supports young people who are preparing to leave foster care,” *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly recognizes May 2026 as National Foster Care Month in Vermont, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the System of Care Manager at the Department for Children and Families’ Family Services Division.

H.C.R. 302

Offered by Representative Durfee of Shaftsbury

Offered by Senators Bongartz and Plunkett

House concurrent resolution congratulating former Shaftsbury Selectboard Chair Arthur Whitman and his wife Kathy Whitman as the recipients of the 2026 Shaftsbury Ordinary Hero Award

Whereas, Art and Kathy Whitman are lifelong residents of the Shaftsbury area, and during their 60-year marriage, the couple’s professional and personal initiatives and leadership have benefited their community, and

Whereas, from 1988 until 2015, the Whitmans owned Whitman’s Feed Store, an agricultural retailer that introduced state-of-the-art grain technology and best practices in animal nutrition to the economic benefit of the business, and the store served as a reliable source of employment; the Whitmans were known to help local farmers in need, and they were generous donors to local animal rescue organizations, and

Whereas, as the owners of A&K Agriservices, the Whitmans sponsor local community events, including the Garlic Town USA Festival, and

Whereas, in their roles as award-winning NorShaft Lions, the couple has supported efforts aiding disabled individuals, a healthy environment, and seniors; the Whitmans have chaired various community functions, including an annual Easter egg hunt, a charity golf tournament, a chili fest, Christmas tree sales, the Night for Sight Dinner Dance, Oktoberfest, the Peace Poster Contest, and youth camps; they are also long-term supporters of the Shaftsbury

Historical Society and the Eagle Square Museum, and, in December 2025, they organized the town's first tractor parade, and

Whereas, as president and secretary-treasurer, respectively, of the Bennington County Farm Bureau, Art and Kathy Whitman advocate for forward-looking agricultural policy that is in the farming community's best interests, and

Whereas, Art Whitman has served his town and State in elected and appointed positions; as a member of the Shaftsbury Selectboard (2014–2024), including as chair of the town's economic development and water committees, he advocated for the creation of the Shaftsbury Town Green and community center; and he served as a member of the Vermont Rail Advisory Council, and

Whereas, in recognition of the couple's extraordinary civic contributions to life in Shaftsbury, Art and Kathy Whitman are the recipients of the town's 2026 Ordinary Hero Award, an honor that is richly deserved, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates former Shaftsbury Selectboard Chair Arthur Whitman and his wife Kathy Whitman as the recipients of the 2026 Shaftsbury Ordinary Hero Award, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Arthur and Kathy Whitman.

H.C.R. 303

Offered by All Members of the House (for Representative Donahue of Northfield)

House concurrent resolution extending best wishes for a speedy and complete recovery to the indomitable Representative Anne de la Blanchetai Donahue of Northfield

Whereas, Vermont native Anne Donahue is a graduate of Boston College and Georgetown University Law Center, and, since 2003, has served as the extraordinarily conscientious and detail-focused member from Northfield, whose special passion for improving mental health care in Vermont is rooted in her own life experiences, and

Whereas, she has worked proactively for many years to develop a more effective and humane mental health care system from both the institutional and community-based delivery perspectives, including serving for many years as

editor of *Counterpoint*, the official publication of the Vermont Psychiatric Survivors organization, and

Whereas, after Tropical Storm Irene's 2011 destruction of the former Vermont State Hospital (VSH) in Waterbury, Representative Anne Donahue was instrumental in the creation of its institutional successor, the Vermont Psychiatric Care Hospital in Berlin, participating in the formation of a more modern and responsive organization, and

Whereas, the dilemma of former VSH undocumented burial sites struck Representative Anne Donahue as an injustice requiring correction, and she has devoted considerable effort to locating these sites, finally restoring dignity to the individuals concerned, even if posthumously, and

Whereas, similarly, she also worked to identify individuals with mental health challenges whose bodies were donated, without prior consent, to the University of Vermont Robert Larner, M.D. College of Medicine for research, and the school honored her for this work at its April 2026 convocation, and

Whereas, for over a decade, Representative Anne Donahue methodically worked on crafting an official apology for the discriminatory treatment of many Vermonters under the highly contentious rubric of the eugenics movement, and since the adoption of 2021 Acts and Resolves No. R-114, "Joint resolution sincerely apologizing and expressing sorrow and regret to all individual Vermonters and their families and descendants who were harmed as a result of State-sanctioned eugenics policies and practices," she has been intensively involved in next-step legislative initiatives, and

Whereas, on the floor and during her service on the House Rules Committee, Representative Anne Donahue has focused on the minutiae of legislation and the legislative process to promote clarity and transparency, and

Whereas, on March 30, 2026, her legislative colleagues were greatly concerned to learn that Representative Anne Donahue had experienced a brain aneurysm, but they are relieved that her recovery is progressing well, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly extends best wishes for a speedy and complete recovery to the indomitable Representative Anne de la Blanchetai Donahue of Northfield, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Representative Anne Donahue.

H.C.R. 304

Offered by Representatives Page of Newport City, Bailey of Hyde Park, Noyes of Wolcott, and Stevens of Waterbury

Offered by Senator Westman

House concurrent resolution celebrating the State House display of Julian Scott's Civil War masterpiece, *The Fourth Vermont Forming Under Fire*, and thanking those individuals who facilitated this historic artistic event

Whereas, the stunning Civil War painting *The Fourth Vermont Forming Under Fire* depicts the 1863 Chancellorsville Campaign (Virginia) rear guard action, under the overall leadership of Union Major General John Sedgwick of the Fourth Vermont Regiment, gallantly protecting the critical Sixth Corps, a contingent destined to play a major role in future battles, as both units crossed the Rappahannock River at Banks Ford (the Fourth being the last to cross), following a fierce confrontation with the Confederate troops under General Robert E. Lee, and

Whereas, New York patent attorney and diplomat Edwin Stoughton commissioned Julian Scott, a Johnson native; teenage Civil War fifer, drummer, and medic; one of our nation's youngest Medal of Honor recipients; and the creator of the four other magnificent Civil War paintings, including the centerpiece, *The First Vermont Brigade at the Battle of Cedar Creek*, which, for decades, have adorned the Cedar Creek Room in the State House, to artistically salute Stoughton's nephews, the brothers Charles and Edwin Stoughton, who served as Fourth Vermont Regiment commanders at different times, and

Whereas, the 1872 painting remained with the family into the 20th century; in 1983, a Texas oilman and cattleman, Patrick R. Rutherford, purchased it for his Houston, Texas, home; and, after his death in 2020, the Rutherford estate donated the painting to the University of Houston for temporary display and then to sell for scholarship revenue, and

Whereas, subsequently, Champlain Valley Union High School teacher and Civil War historian Tyler Alexander, while searching for an image to use on the cover of his new book, *If I Can Get Home This Fall: A Story of Love, Loss, and a Cause in the Civil War*, found an image of the painting, and, after months of further research, he discovered that Vermont art historian Robert Titterton had once appraised the painting, resulting in Tyler Alexander's learning that the artwork was then at a Houston auction house set for imminent sale, and

Whereas, Tyler Alexander immediately informed State Curator David Schutz, who, in turn, contacted Vermont Civil War historians Howard Coffin

and Kevin Graffagnino, and, through these historians' timely involvement, the Manchester art collector and Vermont Country Store owner Lyman Orton placed the successful \$110,000.00 purchase bid, and

Whereas, Lyman Orton has graciously loaned the painting for display in the Cedar Creek Room, where a formal unveiling ceremony occurred on October 29, 2025, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly celebrates the State House display of Julian Scott's Civil War masterpiece, *The Fourth Vermont Forming Under Fire*, and thanks those individuals who facilitated this historic artistic event, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Tyler Alexander, Lyman Orton, Howard Coffin, Kevin Graffagnino, David Schutz, and Robert Titterton.

H.C.R. 305

Offered by All Members of the House

House concurrent resolution honoring former Representative Francis Matthew (Topper) McFaun for his exemplary public and community service

Whereas, throughout his life, Topper McFaun has been known by this distinctive nickname, which his mother bestowed on him before his birth with optimistic aspirations, and which he has undeniably surpassed, and

Whereas, growing up in a poor neighborhood of Cambridge, Massachusetts, and residing in the home of his elderly great-great-grandfather, Topper McFaun learned the importance of wrangling meal invitations from neighbors, and

Whereas, Topper McFaun's leadership potential was exhibited as captain of his high school boys' hockey and cross-country teams, and

Whereas, immediate post-high school factory employment motivated him to walk (which was more affordable than public transit) to Boston University, where he secured admission, skated as a men's hockey Terrier, and earned a bachelor's degree in education, and

Whereas, after U.S. Army service and teaching in the Cambridge, Massachusetts, public school system, Topper McFaun and his Brownsville wife, Mary Howland, moved to Vermont, where he directed a youth employment program at the formerly named Central Vermont Community

Action Council Inc. and then thrived during a 38-year State executive branch career focused on human services and employment-related matters, and

Whereas, he chaired the Barre Town Selectboard, served as Central Vermont Economic Development Corporation president, and was a member of the Barre Area Development Corporation, and

Whereas, for nearly two decades, Topper McFaun coached the Spaulding High School Crimson Tide boys' hockey team, which won five Division I championship game berths and two consecutive divisional titles, and

Whereas, in 2004, Barre Town's voters elected Topper McFaun to represent them in the House of Representatives, where he was a respected legislator, developed many friendships, and served as the House Committee on Health Care vice chair, and

Whereas, on April 3, 2026, after nearly 11 terms as a distinguished and proud member of the House of Representatives, Topper McFaun said farewell to life under the Golden Dome, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors former Representative Francis Matthew (Topper) McFaun for his exemplary public and community service, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to former Representative Topper McFaun.