

State of Vermont House of Representatives



Montpelier, Vermont

Concurrent House Resolution

H.C.R. 172

Offered by All Members of the House

House concurrent resolution in memory of the admired Vermont folk singer and former Elmore Town Moderator Jon Gailmor

Whereas, joyful melodies in celebration of Vermont as “a jewel in the heart of New England” and in praise of the State’s values, freedom, strength, and specialness as a place to call home were the hallmarks of the music of Jon Gailmor, the man some referred to as the Pete Seeger of Vermont, and

Whereas, Jon Gailmor studied at the Pennsylvania State University and Temple University, earning a degree in education, and

Whereas, having rejected a possible commercial music career, alternatively, in 1977, Jon Gailmor relocated to Vermont, initially settling in East Montpelier, then moving north to Elmore, and after first focusing on performances at local music clubs, Jon Gailmor recognized that school residencies and musical collaborations with young audiences were his true artistic calling, and

Whereas, Jon Gailmor characterized children as “naturals in making up songs,” and from 1979 to the early 2000s, he shared his love of creating music with them on his *Just Kidding* radio show, which aired on radio stations WNCS (the Point) in Montpelier and WDEV in Waterbury, and

Whereas, the radio show’s name mirrored the title of his song, which featured the lyrics “Just kidding being a kid,” and similar fun stanzas, and

Whereas, Jon Gailmor became an avid fan of Vermont’s citizen governance process, and in 1994, he even composed a song honoring this tradition, entitled “A Town Meeting Tune,” and

Whereas, his community’s great admiration was tangibly manifested when it elected him Elmore town moderator, charging him with conducting the municipality’s annual and special meetings’ deliberations and overseeing their parliamentary beat and rhythm, a role he enthusiastically exercised for over 15 years until 2024, and

Whereas, in 2022, following the death of his wife, Cathy Murphy, Jon Gailmor joined the Montpelier Gospel Choir, in which she once sang, and in 2024, with a leukemia diagnosis, he moved to his son’s (one of his three children’s) home in New Orleans, Louisiana, where he died at 77 years of age on November 30, 2025, while listening to his song “Gonna Die With A Smile If It Kills Me,” 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 admired Vermont folk singer and former Elmore Town Moderator Jon Gailmor and to the residents of the Town of Elmore, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the family of Jon Gailmor and to the Elmore Town Clerk.