

State of Vermont

House of Representatives



Montpelier, Vermont

Concurrent House Resolution

H.C.R. 175

Offered by Representatives Krowinski of Burlington, Arsenaault of Williston, Austin of Colchester, Bartley of Fairfax, Birong of Vergennes, Bishop of Colchester, Black of Essex, Bluemle of Burlington, Boyden of Cambridge, Brady of Williston, Brown of Richmond, Burke of Brattleboro, Burkhardt of South Burlington, Burrows of West Windsor, Campbell of St. Johnsbury, Canfield of Fair Haven, Carris Duncan of Whitingham, Cina of Burlington, Coffin of Cavendish, Conlon of Cornwall, Cooper of Pownal, Dodge of Essex, Dolan of Essex Junction, Donahue of Northfield, Duke of Burlington, Durfee of Shaftsbury, Eastes of Guilford, Emmons of Springfield, Feltus of Lyndon, Galfetti of Barre Town, Garofano of Essex, Goslant of Northfield, Graning of Jericho, Greer of Bennington, Gregoire of Fairfield, Headrick of Burlington, Higley of Lowell, Holcombe of Norwich, Houghton of Essex Junction, Hoyt of Hartford, James of Manchester, Keyser of Rutland City, Kleppner of Burlington, Kornheiser of Brattleboro, Krasnow of South Burlington, Lalley of Shelburne, LaLonde of South Burlington, LaMont of Morristown, Long of Newfane, Luneau of St. Albans City, Masland of Thetford, McCann of Montpelier, McCoy of Poultney, McGill of Bridport, Minier of South Burlington, Morgan, M. of Milton, Morris of Springfield, Morrissey of Bennington, Morrow of Weston, Mrowicki of Putney, Nelson of Derby, Nugent of South Burlington, Ode of Burlington, Olson of Starksboro, Pezzo of Colchester, Pinsonault of Dorset, Pouech of Hinesburg, Pritchard of Pawlet, Rachelson of Burlington, Satcowitz of Randolph, Scheu of Middlebury, Sibilila of Dover, Squirrell of Underhill, Stevens of Waterbury, Stone of Burlington, Sweeney of Shelburne, Taylor of Milton, Tomlinson of Winooski, Torre of Moretown, Waters Evans of Charlotte, Wells of Brownington, White of Waitsfield, White of Bethel, and Wood of Waterbury

House concurrent resolution in memory of the Venerable J. Stannard Baker of Shelburne

Whereas, Stan Baker, whose forebears were Green Mountain Boys and whose names are reflected in the towns Bakersfield and Stannard, wrote his own page of Vermont history, and

Whereas, a Swarthmore College graduate, Stan Baker was a co-founder of and teacher at the Otter Creek School, a registered play therapist, a licensed mental health counselor, and a mental health clinical director in Addison and Chittenden Counties, and

Whereas, in the 1990s, he and his life partner, Peter Harrigan, Professor of Fine Arts: Theater at St. Michael's College, desired to marry, but as a same-gender couple this was legally impossible, and

Whereas, in partnership with two other LGBTQ+ couples, they sued for the right to marry, and in 1999, the Vermont Supreme Court, in the landmark decision, *Baker v. State*, 170 Vt. 194, established marriage equality under the Vermont Constitution, and the holding lead to Act 91 of 2000 establishing civil unions, and ultimately, Act 3 of 2009 authorizing civil marriage, and

Whereas, in 2009, Stan Baker, a strong justice advocate, was ordained as a deacon in the Episcopal Church, and his local church leadership included service as a chaplain at Fletcher Allen Health Care (now the University of Vermont Medical Center), a deacon of the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Burlington, and archdeacon of the Episcopal Diocese of Vermont, and nationally, he served on panels examining marriage as a five-time clergy deputy to the House of Delegates; as chair of 2024 House of Deputies General Convention Legislative Committee on Prayer Book, Liturgy, and Music; and also in 2024, was elected to the Executive Council of the Episcopal Church, and

Whereas, in June 2025, Stan Baker died at 79 years of age, and his survivors include his husband, Peter Harrigan, and numerous family members and admiring friends, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly extends its sincere condolences to the family and friends of the Venerable J. Stannard Baker of Shelburne, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to members of the family of Stan Baker and to the Episcopal Diocese of Vermont.