

State of Vermont House of Representatives



Montpelier, Vermont

Concurrent House Resolution

H.C.R. 178

Offered by All Members of the House

Offered by All Members of the Senate

House concurrent resolution in memory of former Senator William H. Carris of Wells

Whereas, although born across the Connecticut River in Hanover, New Hampshire, Bill Carris was a proud fifth-generation Vermonter, and

Whereas, as a youth, his enthusiasm for daring winter athletic competitions inspired him to train and succeed as a Junior Olympic ski jumper, and

Whereas, Bill Carris graduated from Rutland High School and the former Castleton State College, where he met his future wife, Barbara Tracy, and then served in the U.S. Army as a financial specialist stationed in Germany, and

Whereas, on returning home to Vermont, he entered his family's business, Carris Reels, a manufacturer of reels for wire and cable packaging, and in 1980 he assumed leadership of the company, transforming this small enterprise into an international industry leader, and

Whereas, in 1995, Bill and Barbara Carris implemented an ESOP (employee stock ownership plan) at Carris Reels, converting the company's ownership into a structure that directly benefitted the staff and became the centerpiece of the corporation's operational philosophy, and

Whereas, beyond his business career, Bill Carris was a passionate philanthropist who was focused on the betterment of his Rutland County community, and

Whereas, in 2006, Bill Carris decided to serve his fellow citizens in the public sector, and the voters of Rutland County elected him to the Vermont Senate for the first of three consecutive terms, where his business knowledge was relied upon during his service on the Committees on Economic Development, Housing, and General Affairs and on Finance, and among his other committee assignments were Institutions, Joint Rules, Judicial Rules, Legislative Information Technology, and Senate Rules, on which he served as vice chair, and

Whereas, this admired Rutland County leader died on October 22, 2025, at 81 years of age, and his survivors include his wife, Barbara; children; and grandchildren, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly extends its sincere sympathy to the family of former Senator William H. Carris, and *be it further*

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