State of Vermont
Senate Chamber

Montpelier, Vermont

Senate Concurrent Resolution

Offered by Senators Cummings, Perchlik, Watson, Beck and Hardy,

Offered by All Members of the House,

S.C.R. 12. Senate concurrent resolution in memory of former Washington County Senator Mary Just Skinner of Middlesex.

Whereas, a Hoosier by birth, Mary Just grew up in the Chicago area and graduated from Barnard College and Columbia Law School in New York City, where she met her future husband and fellow attorney, Scott Skinner; they married in 1970 and, in 1977, settled in Middlesex, where they raised two sons and managed a beef cattle operation, and

Whereas, before hanging her professional shingle in Montpelier, Mary Just Skinner was employed at Vermont Legal Aid, successfully advocating before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit for the overturning of a U.S. Marine Corps policy automatically discharging pregnant Marines, and at the Vermont Supreme Court, where she won a case requiring utilities to secure regulatory approval before raising rates, and

Whereas, in 1978, at 32 years of age, Mary Just Skinner stood successfully for the first of seven consecutive terms as a Vermont State Senator representing Washington County, chaired the Finance and Judiciary committees, and served as assistant minority leader, and

Whereas, as a State Senator, she was especially focused on the challenges vulnerable Vermonters encountered and on protecting the environment, and

Whereas, after leaving the Senate, Mary Just Skinner turned her civic attention to local education governance, serving for 24 years on the Middlesex School Board, and, most recently, she was a member of the Human Services Board and was on the board of directors of Washington Electric Cooperative, and

Whereas, she was actively engaged in many community organizations; enjoyed collecting folk art; was a voracious reader; and, in midlife, became an active athlete who loved to hike, including in the Himalayas, and, at 59 years of age, she summited Mt. Kilimanjaro in Africa, and

Whereas, Mary Just Skinner, whose husband passed in 2018, died unexpectedly on January 9, 2026, at 79 years of age, while visiting her children and grandchildren in California, and she served Vermonters with dedication and enthusiasm, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly expresses its sincere condolences to the family of former Washington County Senator Mary Just Skinner of Middlesex, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the family of Mary Just Skinner.