

**No. R-131. House concurrent resolution recognizing the outstanding public sector and community service career of Gretchen Morse of Burlington.**

(H.C.R.43)

Offered by: Representatives Wizowaty of Burlington, Aswad of Burlington, Atkins of Winooski, Bissonnette of Winooski, Bouchard of Colchester, Brennan of Colchester, Condon of Colchester, Donovan of Burlington, Evans of Essex, Frank of Underhill, Head of South Burlington, Heath of Westford, Jerman of Essex, Kupersmith of South Burlington, Larson of Burlington, Lenes of Shelburne, Lippert of Hinesburg, Lorber of Burlington, Macaig of Williston, McCullough of Williston, Munger of South Burlington, Myers of Essex, O'Brien of Richmond, Pearson of Burlington, Pugh of South Burlington, Ram of Burlington, Spengler of Colchester, Till of Jericho, Turner of Milton, Waite-Simpson of Essex, Webb of Shelburne, Weston of Burlington, Wright of Burlington and Yantachka of Charlotte

Whereas, Gretchen Morse has focused her professional life on less fortunate Vermonters, and

Whereas, she chaired both the education and former health and welfare committees in the House of Representatives and served as Secretary of Human Services during the administration of Governor Madeleine Kunin, and

Whereas, in 1991, Gretchen Morse become the executive director of the United Way of Chittenden County (UWCC), and

Whereas, during the two decades of her forward-looking and innovative leadership, the UWCC has raised over \$70 million in annual community campaign contributions, and

Whereas, although this financial success is noteworthy, her other achievements are equally impressive, and

Whereas, Gretchen Morse transformed the operating structure of UWCC into a community impact investment model; helped launch the Champlain

Initiative, a healthy community initiative; and played major roles in creating the Chittenden County Truancy Project and the UWCC Volunteer Center which merged the Foster Grandparent, RSVP and Volunteer Connection programs, and

Whereas, her merging of two assistance call centers into a single “Get Info” center was the pivotal step in creating Vermont’s 2-1-1-phone service, a statewide nonemergency information and referral telephone assistance network, and

Whereas, under the leadership of Gretchen Morse, UWCC collaborated on an earned income tax credit program and a free taxpayer assistance initiative, and

Whereas, UWCC, in partnership with IBM, conducted an annual Days of Caring project, involving 430 persons from 12 companies volunteering 2,000 hours at 32 local nonprofit agencies, and other innovative efforts under her direction included drawing on the resources of local emergency assistance providers to create the HELP Fund and creating the Child Care Food Network, and

Whereas, Gretchen Morse has announced her retirement, effective June 30, 2011, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly recognizes the outstanding public sector and community service career of Gretchen Morse of Burlington, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Gretchen Morse in Burlington.