

No. R-114. House concurrent resolution in memory of former Representative Sylvia Rita Kennedy of Chelsea.

(H.C.R.96)

Offered by: Representatives Demrow of Corinth and Graham of Williamstown

Offered by: Senator MacDonald

Whereas, Sylvia Kennedy was born in Barre and graduated from Spaulding High School, and

Whereas, she was employed in various State government positions, and Governor Richard Snelling appointed her to a seat on the Vermont Parole Board, and

Whereas, during her first marriage, she raised her family, and

Whereas, in 1974, she married then Speaker of the House Walter L. “Peanut” Kennedy, and they spent much of their 23-year marriage dividing their time between winters in Florida and summers in Peanut Kennedy’s hometown of Chelsea, and

Whereas, Sylvia Kennedy held abiding passions for religion, music, and art, and

Whereas, in the 1980s, Sylvia Kennedy served as a “witness for the Lord,” traveling from Maine to Georgia, bringing the gospel to local Methodist churches, and

Whereas, her religious and musical interests merged in her role as the choral director at St. Paul’s Presbyterian Church and later at Trinity United Methodist Church, both in North Port, Florida, and

Whereas, in collaboration with fellow chorister Robert E. McMullen, she cofounded the still-performing North Port Concert Orchestra, and

Whereas, she exhibited her paintings at several locations in Florida and Vermont, including the Tunbridge World’s Fair, and

Whereas, in 1997, upon the death of her husband, Peanut Kennedy, Sylvia Kennedy relocated permanently to Chelsea, and in 2000 stood successfully to represent Chelsea in the House of Representatives, and

Whereas, Representative Sylvia Kennedy was an attentive and conscientious member of the House for three terms, serving on the Committees on Judiciary and on Government Operations, and

Whereas, Sylvia Kennedy died on November 11, 2018 at 86 years of age, and her survivors include her friend, Will Dodge, her stepchildren, and a granddaughter, 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 Representative Sylvia Rita Kennedy of Chelsea, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the members of Sylvia Kennedy’s family and Will Dodge.