

No. R-194. House concurrent resolution in memory of Mark Bennett of Brattleboro.

(H.C.R.114)

Offered by: Representatives O'Donnell of Vernon, Burke of Brattleboro, Edwards of Brattleboro and Milkey of Brattleboro

Whereas, during his nearly three decades residing in the town of Brattleboro, Mark Bennett served his community at his job, as a school board member, and through his active involvement in nonprofit and religious organizations, and

Whereas, he was born in New Jersey, graduated with a degree in political science from the University of Massachusetts, and in more recent years had pursued graduate studies at Keene State College which awarded him a master's degree in educational counseling, and

Whereas, professionally, Mark Bennett had worked for many years at the department of employment and training before accepting a position at the agency of human services, and each of his jobs focused on assisting others to improve their lives, and

Whereas, aside from his many years of helping others as an outstanding Vermont state employee, Mark Bennett's life was dedicated to serving his local community in the public and nonprofit sectors, and

Whereas, Mark Bennett was passionately committed to improving the quality of public education and to that end, he served on the Brattleboro town school board, and

Whereas, the expertise Mark Bennett gained as a town school committee member prepared him to assume his new duties on the Brattleboro Union High School board, to which he was elected in 2002, and

Whereas, on each of these school governance panels, Mark Bennett won praise from his fellow citizens and in particular from educational professionals for the consistently high quality of his work that always placed the students' best interest as his top priority, and

Whereas, local nonprofit organizations, including the United Way of Windham County, Brattleboro Area Affordable Housing, and the annual Men Who Cook fundraiser, appreciated the many hours of volunteer service that Mark Bennett donated to their respective causes, and

Whereas, the parishioners of St. Michael's Episcopal Church recognized that Mark Bennett's leadership was an asset to the congregation, and

Whereas, just a few weeks prior to his 30th wedding anniversary, which he and his wife Jan would have celebrated on April 30, 2009, Mark Bennett died unexpectedly at the age of 55, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly expresses its sincere condolences to the family of Mark Bennett, including his wife Jan, son Tad, daughters Tia, Jessica, and Elizabeth, and granddaughter Avery, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Jan Bennett in Brattleboro.