

No. R-307. House concurrent resolution in memory of former Representative Rene L. Blanchard of Essex.

(H.C.R.229)

Offered by: Representatives Evans of Essex, Jerman of Essex, Myers of Essex, Waite-Simpson of Essex, Heath of Westford, Atkins of Winooski and Bissonnette of Winooski

Whereas, education, athletics, and public service were the rich combination of pursuits that filled the life of former Representative Rene Blanchard of Essex (Essex Junction), and

Whereas, at Cathedral High School and Johnson State College, he was a star basketball player, scoring 1,000 points while at Johnson, and

Whereas, after graduating from Johnson State College, he earned a second degree from Springfield College and then a master's degree in history and government from St. Michael's College, and

Whereas, Rene Blanchard embarked on a combined teaching-coaching career, starting at Plainfield High School, continuing at the Weeks School in Vergennes, and, beginning in 1959, at Winooski High School, where his illustrious tenure as a teacher and coach lasted for 28 years and where he taught United States history, government, economics, and physical education while at various times coaching soccer, baseball, and girls' and boys' basketball, guiding the boys' basketball team to three consecutive state championships and where he served as athletic director for several years, and

Whereas, his lifetime accomplishments as both a player and a coach won him many awards including induction into several halls of fame, and

Whereas, aside from scholastic athletic competition, Rene Blanchard coached for the Burlington International Games, and

Whereas, Rene Blanchard was a public servant of the highest honor and integrity on the municipal and state levels, serving for 12 years as an Essex Junction village trustee, and in 1994 he stood successfully for the first of three terms as one of the members from Essex in the House of Representatives, and

Whereas, as a state legislator, former Representative Rene Blanchard became known as a Blue Dog, one of a group of conservative Democrats who could be decisive in determining the passage of contested legislation as they built shifting coalitions with both Democrats and Republicans, and

Whereas, Rene Blanchard, who made numerous enduring friendships throughout his life, died in November 2011, and Rebecca, his loving wife of 50 years, survives him, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly fondly remembers former Representative Rene Blanchard of Essex, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Rebecca Blanchard in Essex Junction.