

No. R-295. House concurrent resolution honoring William Olney for his accomplishments as a softball player and coach.

(H.C.R.235)

Offered by: Representatives Devereux of Mount Holly, Burditt of West Rutland, Canfield of Fair Haven, Cupoli of Rutland City, Helm of Fair Haven, McCoy of Poultney, and Potter of Clarendon

Offered by: Senators Collamore, Nitka, and Sears

Whereas, softball, especially pitching, and Bill Olney have been synonymous, during his stellar career stretching over half a century, and

Whereas, although originally a skilled high school basketball player at Black River High School, on entering the U.S. Air Force, Bill Olney recognized his true athletic destiny as a softball pitcher, playing on some of the service's best softball squads, and

Whereas, after his military duties concluded, he graduated from Castleton State College (now University), and

Whereas, both professionally and as an avocation, softball assumed a central role in the life of Bill Olney, and

Whereas, in 1988, he pitched for a New Hampshire fast-pitch softball team that played in its league's national championship game in Marietta, Georgia, and

Whereas, in 1994, he pitched on a team that finished fourth of 83 teams, competing in a national softball tournament, and was named an American Softball Association All-American, and

Whereas, Bill Olney served for 13 years as the pitching coach for the Dartmouth College softball team, polishing its pitchers' styles and modes of delivering the softball across home plate, and

Whereas, for many years, Bill Olney has mentored secondary school students, helping them improve their pitching skills, and one of his top athletes later ascended the softball pitching mound for Dartmouth College, and

Whereas, in recognition of his dedication to working with young athletes, Bill Olney was elected to the Castleton athletic Hall of Fame, and

Whereas, at 75 years of age, Bill Olney centers his primary coaching interest now at Castleton University, his alma mater, where he happily serves as the part-time softball pitching coach extraordinaire and is still learning new pointers to pass on to the Castleton pitchers, and

Whereas, his sole compensation is essentially a T-shirt, and

Whereas, although Bill Olney's personal softball achievements are praiseworthy, the enthusiasm and spirit he devotes to working with aspiring student athletes are beyond compare, and

Whereas, Bill Olney is a great example of a member of an older generation passing on his personal experience and wisdom to those many years his junior, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors William Olney for his accomplishments as a softball player and coach, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Bill Olney.