

No. R-326. House concurrent resolution in memory of Guildhall civic leader Richard William Martin.

(H.C.R.261)

Offered by: Representative Quimby of Concord

Whereas, Richard W. (Stretch) Martin's friendly smile and quiet demeanor were well known on both sides of the Connecticut River's northern shores, and

Whereas, having been raised on his family's Lancaster, New Hampshire, farm, Stretch Martin's agricultural career path was long settled, and

Whereas, he graduated from Lancaster High School, the Thompson School of Agriculture, and the University of New Hampshire, and

Whereas, initially in partnership with his father, Stretch Martin began assembling parcels of land in Guildhall for a farm that would become the younger Martin's homestead, and

Whereas, while still a legal resident of Lancaster, New Hampshire, Stretch Martin served as a member of the town's selectboard, and

Whereas, in 1978, Stretch Martin and his father began constructing a dairy barn on the Guildhall site, and

Whereas, before the first cow entered the new Guildhall dairy barn, Stretch Martin and his bride, Muriel, celebrated their wedding reception in the newly constructed space, and

Whereas, the Martin farm's size increased to 450-plus acres and has been the home to 190 dairy cows, and

Whereas, Stretch Martin's agricultural focus extended beyond his farm as he served as the Farm Bureau's Essex County president, as one of the organization's delegates, and as a member of its State board of directors, and

Whereas, among his numerous other agricultural roles were membership on the University of Vermont Extension's Dairy Advisory Committee and the Lancaster Fair's Board of Directors, the latter for four decades; participation in the Dairy Herd Improvement Association; and serving as a 4-H leader, continuing an association that began in his youth, and

Whereas, as the father of three children, Stretch Martin was strongly committed to high-quality public education and dedicated 24 years to service on the Guildhall School Board and, more recently, sat as a Guildhall Selectboard member, and

Whereas, this admired local civic and State agricultural leader died on July 27, 2017 at 73 years of age, and his survivors include his wife, Muriel; children, Jennifer, Peter, and Jacqueline; four grandchildren; and several siblings, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly extends its condolences to the family of Richard William Martin, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to members of the family of Richard Martin.