

**No. R-260. Senate concurrent resolution in memory of Shelburne civic and community leader Thomas Trefley Bessette.**

(S.C.R.29)

By Senators Lyons, Ashe, Baruth, Mazza, Sirotkin, Snelling, and Zuckerman,  
By Representatives Webb of Shelburne and Lenex of Shelburne,

*Whereas*, perhaps no other individual was a more passionate contributor to the town of Shelburne's civic well-being than Thomas Bessette, and

*Whereas*, during his life, he was engaged in an array of roles encompassing unusually diverse aspects of community public service, and

*Whereas*, a life-long resident of Shelburne, Thomas Bessette was born at home and graduated from the former Shelburne High School in 1960, and

*Whereas*, his employment included working at Parker Brothers, as head of security at the former Trinity College, as an emergency dispatcher at St. Michael's College, and with Corbin & Palmer Inc., and

*Whereas*, although he performed each of these jobs efficiently and enthusiastically, and made many friends at his places of employment, Thomas Bessette's true passion was his community leadership and service in Shelburne, and

*Whereas*, in the realm of public safety, an area in which Thomas Bessette brought his professional expertise, he served the town of Shelburne as a volunteer firefighter, rescue squad driver, police officer, and town constable, and

*Whereas*, other offices he held in the community included animal control officer and health officer, and

*Whereas*, during his tenure on the Shelburne Selectboard, Thomas Bessette participated actively in the oversight of all aspects of municipal government, and

*Whereas*, in a broader geographic context, for over 35 years, he was a Champlain Water District board member, and

*Whereas*, Thomas Bessette had a well-deserved reputation as a "people person" who enjoyed meeting people and making new friends, and

*Whereas*, his dedication to serving the citizens of his beloved hometown earned him the title "Mr. Shelburne," which clearly was personally meaningful, and

*Whereas*, this favorite son of Shelburne died on December 10, 2015 at 73 years of age, and his survivors include his wife of 48 years, Joanne; daughters, Heather, Stephanie, and Christine; four grandchildren; and his brother, Rick, *now therefore be it*

***Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:***

That the General Assembly extends its sincere condolences to the family of Thomas Trefley Bessette, *and be it further*

***Resolved:*** That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Thomas Bessette's wife, daughters, and brother.