

State of Vermont Senate Chamber



Montpelier, Vermont Senate Concurrent Resolution

By Senators Lyons, Ashe, Baruth, Mazza, Sirotkin, Snelling, and Zuckerman,

By Representatives Webb of Shelburne and Lenes of Shelburne,

S.C.R. 29. Senate concurrent resolution in memory of Shelburne civic and community leader Thomas Trefley Bessette.

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.