

No. R-390. Senate concurrent resolution in memory of Manchester's pioneering developer Ben Hauben.

(S.C.R.41)

By Senators Champion and Sears,

By Representatives Berry of Manchester, Browning of Arlington, and Komline of Dorset,

Whereas, the town of Manchester has long been a tourist mecca known for its idyllic mountain scenery and access to outstanding year-round outdoor recreational opportunities, and

Whereas, in the final decades of the 20th century, a new dimension was added to Manchester, transforming Bennington County's Northshire into a renowned merchandising hub, and

Whereas, developer Ben Hauben conceived the idea of introducing designer outlet stores in Manchester, and

Whereas, through his Vanderbilt Equities, Ben Hauben and his wife, Lana Hauben, established Manchester Designer Outlets, which leased retail space in Manchester Center to some of the nation's most elite and respected clothing brands, including Ann Taylor, Eddie Bauer, J. Crew, and Ralph Lauren, and

Whereas, the over 40 retail establishments located in the Manchester Designer Outlets complex are housed in aesthetically and architecturally attractive buildings and not large commercial style "big box spaces" and include accessory, home accessory, and specialty food stores, as well as designer clothing outlets, and

Whereas, high quality building construction and long-term maintenance were always of prime importance in Ben Hauben's construction projects, and

Whereas, although his projects, including the Crystal Palace and the Marble Mill, provoked much discussion in Manchester when they were built, as they marked a fundamental change in the town's appearance, they have become essential to the economic prosperity of Manchester, and

Whereas, Ben Hauben's merchandising ideas were pioneering, and developers in other communities subsequently followed his lead, and

Whereas, as a philanthropist, Ben Hauben was a patron of the arts and contributed to the Manchester library and the Dorset Theater Festival, and

Whereas, he was a visionary entrepreneur who sought to expand the economic base of Manchester while retaining the town's historic character, and

Whereas, Ben Hauben died at 73 years of age on March 8, 2016, and his survivors include his wife, Lana Hauben of Dorset; daughters, Alissa, Laura, and Jill; and six grandchildren, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly extends its sincere condolences to the family of Ben Hauben, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Lana Hauben and to each of Ben Hauben's daughters.