

2013 -- H 6150

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2013

H O U S E R E S O L U T I O N

**EXPRESSING OUR DEEPEST CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF CHARLES M.
BORDERS, JR.**

Introduced By: Representatives Chippendale, and Winfield

Date Introduced: May 21, 2013

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, In 1925, Charles M. Borders, Jr., was born in his family's farmhouse in
2 Foster, Rhode Island. He was raised working on the dairy farm and learned the values of hard
3 work and self-reliance in a farmhouse with no functional electricity; and

4 WHEREAS, Charles met his wife, Margery, in the 1940s while serving as a Missionary
5 in the Church of Latter Day Saints in Massachusetts and brought her back to Foster after their
6 marriage to settle on the family farm; and

7 WHEREAS, Charles and Margery Borders were very active in the Town of Foster, with
8 Margery serving as Town Council President, among other roles, and they always remained an
9 integral part of Foster's small town life; and

10 WHEREAS, Charles Borders was appointed chairman of the bridge committee of Foster,
11 which was charged with building the first covered bridge on a state road in the State of Rhode
12 Island, the Swamp Meadows Bridge, which passes over the Hemlock Brook. The bridge was
13 dedicated on May 23, 1993; and

14 WHEREAS, The Swamp Meadow Bridge was burned to the ground by vandals later in
15 1993. Charles once again chaired the committee that was now organized to rebuild the bridge.
16 The community witnessed an outpouring of support from all over Rhode Island in the wake of the
17 bridge's destruction. The bridge was rebuilt with all volunteers and rededicated in November of
18 1994; and

19 WHEREAS, Charles Borders was quoted in a short documentary as stating, "This is

1 Heaven on Earth, right here...” Time and again, he demonstrated his undying love of the town of
2 Foster, his beloved family farm, and all of the farms in the Town of Foster; and

3 WHEREAS, In order to preserve that “Heaven on Earth” for future generations, Charles
4 created the Borders Farm Preservation, Inc., in 2003 to ensure that his farm would remain after
5 his passing and not succumb to development. The Borders Farm Preservation, Inc., is now a
6 501c3 non-profit, and his land was purchased by the State of Rhode Island with grant and other
7 moneys to preserve the farm as an interactive museum of 20th Century New England farming and
8 a community farming, gardening, educational, and recreational resource; and

9 WHEREAS, The most recent recession in Rhode Island compelled Charles to dedicate an
10 entire field on his farm to be used as a “community garden” that would be tended to by volunteers
11 and whose produce would be donated to the town’s Food Pantry, as well as to other church
12 pantries throughout Foster; and

13 WHEREAS, Several years ago, Charles started to conduct an annual “September 11th
14 Memorial Service” on his farm, where he erected a flag pole that was anchored by two beautiful
15 grist mill stones. The local Boy Scouts would perform a flag raising ceremony, prayers would be
16 offered, patriotic songs sung, and words of remembrance shared; and

17 WHEREAS, On the morning of May 16, 2013, Charles M. Borders, Jr., passed away
18 peacefully at the age of 88 years in the very farmhouse in which he was born; now, therefore be it

19 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
20 Providence Plantations recognizes and mourns the loss suffered by the residents of Foster and the
21 entire State with the passing of Mr. Charles M. Borders, Jr. Rhode Island has lost a true paragon
22 of virtue. We extend our heartfelt condolences to the entire community; and be it further

23 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
24 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Mr. George E. Dixon, Vice President of The
25 Borders Farm Preservation, Inc.

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