

No. R-50. Senate concurrent resolution in memory of former Representative and Senator Edgar May of Springfield.

(S.C.R.13)

By All Members of the Senate,

By All Members of the House,

Whereas, Edgar May was a proud immigrant to the United States who epitomized his mother's thought that "anything is possible in America," and

Whereas, he and his sister, the future Vermont Governor Madeleine May Kunin, arrived with their mother in New York in June 1940 on the S.S. Manhattan as refugees fleeing the Nazi threat to European Jewry, and

Whereas, Edgar May graduated from the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University and was a U.S. military veteran, and

Whereas, his first full-time position as a journalist was at the *Bellows Falls Times*, and his career path led to the *Buffalo Evening News*, for which he wrote a 14-part series entitled "Our Costly Dilemma" that exposed problems with the New York welfare system and that earned him a Pulitzer Prize, and the articles were subsequently compiled into a book, and

Whereas, this book attracted the attention of Sargent Shriver, who appointed Edgar May to senior positions in the federal War on Poverty, and

Whereas, in 1974, Edgar May successfully stood for election to the Vermont House of Representatives from his hometown of Springfield, and his eight-year tenure included three terms as chair of the House Health and Welfare Committee, with his prior work serving as a valuable resource, and

Whereas, in 1982, Edgar May sought a seat in the Vermont Senate, and beginning in 1985 served as the Senate Appropriations Committee Chair, earning bipartisan respect, and

Whereas, after leaving Vermont elected politics, Edgar May served as chief operating officer of Special Olympics in Washington, D.C., and

Whereas, on returning to Springfield, he spearheaded the effort to construct a new health and recreation center in a former Jones & Lamson machine tool building, and upon completion, this new facility, which is available to individuals of all income levels, was named in his honor, and

Whereas, Edgar May died at the age of 83, leaving as survivors his sister and many nieces and nephews, and his many friends and admirers in Springfield and elsewhere will retain fond memories of this extraordinary man, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly expresses its sincere condolences to the family of former Representative and Senator Edgar May of Springfield, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to former Governor Madeleine May Kunin and to the Edgar May Health and Recreation Center in Springfield.