STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2013

HOUSE RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Charles Borders was quoted in a short documentary as stating, “This is
Heaven on Earth, right here…” Time and again, he demonstrated his undying love of the town of Foster, his beloved family farm, and all of the farms in the Town of Foster; and

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

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

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

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

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

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