

**No. R-36. House concurrent resolution in memory of esteemed Vermont poet David Budbill.**

(H.C.R.18)

Offered by: Representatives Donahue of Northfield, Lewis of Berlin, Hill of Wolcott, Hooper of Montpelier, Kitzmiller of Montpelier, and Noyes of Wolcott

Offered by: Senators Cummings, Brooks, and Pollina

Whereas, for 45 years, the multigenre writer David Budbill resided in Wolcott where he found an ideal homestead, and

Whereas, a critic, reviewing David Budbill's poetry collection, *Judevine*, described the volume as containing "some of the most direct and clear-eyed poems of the half-century" and compared the author favorably to Walt Whitman and Robert Frost, and

Whereas, David Budbill was born in Cleveland, Ohio; studied at Muskingum College (now University) in New Concord, Ohio; earned a graduate degree at Union Theological Seminary in New York City, New York; and then taught briefly at historically African-American Lincoln University in Pennsylvania, and

Whereas, he soon chose the rural setting of Wolcott where he constructed a home, labored on a Christmas tree farm, tended a large vegetable garden, and pursued a notable literary career featuring the publication of ten poetry books, seven plays, two novels, a short story collection, two picture books for children, and an opera libretto *A Fleeting Animal: An Opera From Judevine*, with composer Erik Nielsen, and

Whereas, his published legacy will be expanded with the posthumous release of his final collection of poems and a third novel, and

Whereas, David Budbill was musically talented and enjoyed playing many instruments, including the Japanese shakuhachi, and

Whereas, rural and urban public presentations, often with a musical component, were an essential part of his artistic repertoire, and

Whereas, he championed racial and economic justice as a writer and a citizen, and

Whereas, David Budbill was the recipient of many prestigious awards and honors, and

Whereas, although never named as the Vermont Poet Laureate, colleagues who have held this title wrote of David Budbill in the most glowing and laudatory terms, signifying they considered him a professional peer, and

Whereas, David Budbill died on September 25, 2016, and his survivors include his wife, Lois Eby; daughter, Nadine, and her partner, Mia Roethlein; and his granddaughter, Riley Wolf Budbill-Roethlein, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly expresses its sincere condolences to the family of esteemed Vermont poet David Budbill, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the members of David Budbill's family.