

No. R-49. House concurrent resolution honoring Grafton volunteer firefighter Richard Thompson and sending best wishes for recovery to Beatrice Fisher who he gallantly rescued from her burning home.

(H.C.R.21)

Offered by: Representatives Partridge of Windham and Obuchowski of Rockingham

Whereas, early in the evening of Friday, December 10, 2010, the Grafton Volunteer Fire Department notified its members that the 150-year-old Fisher homestead, the home of Beatrice Fisher, was engulfed in flames, and

Whereas, Richard Thompson, who has only served with the department for approximately one year, opted to bypass the fire station and travel directly to the scene of the blaze which was close to his home, and

Whereas, when he arrived with not a single piece of firefighting or rescue equipment, and prior to his colleagues' presence on the scene, Beatrice Fisher's granddaughter-in-law was desperately shouting to her relative trapped in the house, and

Whereas, entering a burning structure bereft of rescue equipment is absolutely contrary to the precepts and safety rules of firefighting, and

Whereas, specific circumstances arise when a human life is in immediate jeopardy and diverting from the firefighter's credo may be unwise, and

Whereas, Richard Thompson relied on his human instinct and kicked the front door open in a bold effort to save Beatrice Fisher's life, and

Whereas, despite having ignored the firefighting rules, Richard Thompson remembered the training dictum to stay low inside a burning house as he

dropped to his knees and employed a firefighter's right-hand sweep in search of the victim, ultimately reaching out for her when it became imperative to evacuate at once, and

Whereas, his extraordinary rescue prompted Grafton Fire Chief Eric Stevens to describe the firefighter as a hero, and

Whereas, Beatrice Fisher is recuperating amazingly well, and her family and she will be forever grateful to Richard Thompson for his bravery, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors Grafton volunteer firefighter Richard Thompson and sends best wishes for recovery to Beatrice Fisher who he gallantly rescued from her burning home, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Richard Thompson, Beatrice Fisher, and the Grafton Volunteer Fire Department.