

No. R-51. House concurrent resolution in memory of Marion Pritchard.

(H.C.R.31)

Offered by: Representatives Frenier of Chelsea and Graham of Williamstown

Whereas, Marion van Binsbergen was a Dutch gentile whom the Nazis falsely imprisoned and tortured early in their occupation of Holland, and

Whereas, following her release, Marion van Binsbergen was horrified when she witnessed Nazi officials violently force a group of Jewish youngsters, residents of a children's home, into a truck taking them to their probable deaths in Nazi concentration camps, and

Whereas, in response, she joined the Dutch resistance registering Jewish infants as her own and helping Jewish children acquire food ration cards, medical care, and false identification papers, and

Whereas, for two and one-half years, she resided with a Jewish father and his three children in the servants' quarters of a country estate and shot and killed a Dutch policeman and Nazi sympathizer who was about to discover the family, and

Whereas, following World War II, Marion van Binsbergen worked for the United Nations in Germany where she met her future husband, former American Army Captain Anton Pritchard, and

Whereas, the Pritchard family moved to Vershire in the 1970s, and Marion Pritchard compiled an extensive collection of Holocaust literature that she donated to the Vershire Public Library, and

Whereas, Yad Vashem, the World Holocaust Remembrance Center in Jerusalem, honored her as Righteous Among the Nations and the University of Michigan presented her its Wallenberg Medal, and she participated in oral history and film projects documenting Holocaust rescue efforts, and

Whereas, Marion Pritchard died in Washington, D.C., on December 11, 2016, and her survivors include her sons, Arnold, Ivor, and Brian, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly extends its sincere condolences to the family of Marion Pritchard, and be it further

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