

No. R-171. House concurrent resolution honoring Richard DeGray for his dedication to the botanical beautification of Brattleboro.

(H.C.R.130)

Offered by: Representatives Burke of Brattleboro, Kornheiser of Brattleboro, and Toleno of Brattleboro

Offered by: Senators Harrison and Hashim

Whereas, a decade ago, Brattleboro business owner and former selectboard member Dick DeGray decided that his community's downtown would benefit from a flowery presence, and he raised funds for the purchase of 22 flowerpots and associated plants and soil, and

Whereas, with the financial support of downtown Brattleboro businesses, the inventory of plants has expanded to more than 200 items, and

Whereas, drawing on the collected monies, Dick DeGray acquired a pickup truck that enables him to water plants directly from the vehicle's driver's seat and includes a door appropriately labeled with the word "Bloom," and

Whereas, Ahmed Rashed of Rashed's Garden Center in West Brattleboro has been a primary supplier of the project's gardening elements, and

Whereas, daily, during the warmer months, Dick DeGray rose prior to dawn to water all these plants, whose flowers have created a colorful municipal floral environment, and

Whereas, his dedication to this extraordinary beautification project is a demanding volunteer vocation, and, at the conclusion of the 2023 watering season, Dick DeGray, now 71 years of age, decided to conclude his greatly appreciated role that will hopefully continue, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors Richard DeGray for his dedication to the botanical beautification of Brattleboro, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Dick DeGray and to Ahmed Rashed.