

State of Vermont House of Representatives



Montpelier, Vermont

Concurrent House Resolution

H.C.R. 135

House concurrent resolution honoring the late James Burlingame on his posthumous induction into the Vermont Principals' Hall of Fame

Offered by: Representatives Crawford of Burke, Lawrence of Lyndon, Reis of St. Johnsbury and South of St. Johnsbury

Offered by: Senators Choate and Kitchel

Whereas, James Burlingame attended Springfield College, earning both a bachelor's and master's degree, and served in the U.S. Navy, and

Whereas, after working for two years as an assistant coach in several sports at Burlington High School, James Burlingame relocated to St. Johnsbury Academy (SJA) where he served as a coach, biology and physical education teacher, and, ultimately, athletic director during the following 21 years, and

Whereas, although James Burlingame coached baseball, basketball, and track during his years at SJA, his historic legacy to the school's sports annals was as a football coach who won 90 games, lost 66, and tied 6, and

Whereas, his football coaching career featured many memorable achievements, including three state championships, first in Division II in 1961, and twice in Division I in 1966 and again in 1968 when the Hilltoppers were undefeated, and for a period of time in the 1960s, the academy compiled a football record of 29–2–1, and

Whereas, the Division I championships were especially impressive because SJA was a smaller school than most of its Division I rivals, and

Whereas, his Hilltopper squads defeated arch rival Lyndon Institute four consecutive years, from 1973 to 1976, a feat that had not been previously accomplished since the 1930s, and

Whereas, James Burlingame's coaching talents were on display before a broad audience when he coached the Vermont team at the 1964 all-star Shrine football game when Vermont defeated New Hampshire in an unexpected 27–13 victory, and he also coached the Vermont all-stars in 1965 and again in 1972 when Vermont won 6–0, and

Whereas, sadly, his 1977 retirement at age 52 proved brief as he died while jogging near his Cape Cod home in 1979, and the baseball field at SJA was named in his honor in 1980, and

Whereas, though over 30 years have passed since James Burlingame's untimely death, his memory is still cherished at SJA, and he will be inducted posthumously this May into the Vermont Principals' Hall of Fame as a coaching honoree, much to the delight of his wife, Nancy, their children, Aurora, Vivianna, Blair, and Brent, and grandchildren, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors the late James Burlingame on his posthumous induction into the Vermont Principals' Hall of Fame, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Nancy Burlingame.