

No. R-222. House concurrent resolution honoring the artistic legacy of Skip Morrow and The Art of Humor Gallery in Wilmington.

(H.C.R.168)

Offered by: Representative Roberts of Halifax

Whereas, the creative genius of Skip Morrow was expressed in his designs, music, and, most prominently, his cartoons, whose often humorous illustrations adorned books, calendars, and greeting cards, and

Whereas, as a youth in New Jersey, his doodling and musical talent emerged, and his skill as a guitarist, pianist, and singer took him to performance venues throughout the northeast, and

Whereas, in 1974, Skip Morrow graduated from Rutgers University, and, in 1980, his cartooning acumen became broadly known with the publication of his *New York Times*-bestseller *The Official I Hate Cats Book*, and

Whereas, in the decades that followed, Skip Morrow illustrated many publications, approximately 1,500 greeting cards for Recycled Paper Greetings, and both contracted as a corporate illustrator and worked on a pro bono basis, designing for local organizations, including the MOOver buses, and

Whereas, in 1981, Skip Morrow married Laraine, and they became a performing musical duo, entertaining at restaurants, weddings, and other celebratory events, and

Whereas, at the picturesque property that the couple purchased in Wilmington, with a postal address on the unusually named Not-A Road, Skip Morrow designed a fun-filled home, a studio, and The Art of Humor gallery space, which, since 2001, has exhibited and sold his works, and

Whereas, in the 1990s, in response to a proposed highway bypass around Wilmington, Skip Morrow instead proposed leaving the road and relocating the town center, and, had this daring proposal been adopted, downtown Wilmington's devastation from Tropical Irene might have been avoided, and

Whereas, Skip Morrow died in 2019, his wife and daughters surviving him, and, in 2024, Laraine Morrow has decided to sell the family property and limit future art sales to an online gallery, thus ending The Art of Humor's unique presence in the Town of Wilmington, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors the artistic legacy of Skip Morrow and The Art of Humor Gallery in Wilmington, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the members of the Morrow family.