

No. R-250. House concurrent resolution honoring former Representative Robert Lawrence Walsh of South Burlington for his advocacy and public service on behalf of the Vermont Veterans' Memorial Cemetery.

(H.C.R.186)

Offered by: Committee on General, Housing and Military Affairs

Whereas, Vermont's veterans deserve respect for their military service, including a dignified final resting place, and

Whereas, former Representative Bob Walsh of South Burlington, a retired Marine lieutenant colonel and a Vietnam veteran, has been a leader in the establishment, operation, and enhancement of the Veterans' Memorial Cemetery in Randolph Center, and

Whereas, the highlight of his career as a State Representative (1983–1988) was his advocating for the State to establish a Vermont Veterans' Memorial Cemetery, which became a reality with the enactment of Act 69 of 1989, and

Whereas, the passage of the authorizing legislation resulted in the construction of the Vermont Veterans' Memorial Cemetery in Randolph Center, and

Whereas, Bob Walsh then served as a founding member of the committee dedicated to raising the necessary funds for the construction of a chapel on the cemetery's grounds, and

Whereas, beginning in 1998, his passion and commitment to the Vermont Veterans' Memorial Cemetery was applied to his service as a member of its advisory board, and three governors appointed him to this position, and

Whereas, during Bob Walsh's tenure on the Board, the Vermont Veterans' Memorial Cemetery established a master plan, and

Whereas, a culmination of the Board's work to improve the Vermont Veterans' Memorial Cemetery occurred in the summer of 2015, when the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs awarded the State a \$5.7 million grant to add 1,640 new burial plots; construct a new main entrance, public information center, and road system; and facilitate the cemetery's expanding its operations from seasonal to year-round, and

Whereas, after 17 years (1998–2015) of serving as a much-valued member of the Vermont Veterans' Memorial Cemetery Advisory Board, former Representative Bob Walsh has concluded his Board tenure, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors former Representative Robert Walsh for his advocacy and public service on behalf of the Vermont's Veterans' Memorial Cemetery, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to former Representative Robert Lawrence Walsh in South Burlington and to the Vermont Office of Veterans Affairs.