

No. R-309. House concurrent resolution in memory of Dale Long.

(H.C.R.220)

Offered by: Representative Morrissey of Bennington, Botzow of Pownal, Browning of Arlington, Corcoran of Bennington, Komline of Dorset, Krawczyk of Bennington, Miller of Shaftsbury, Mook of Bennington and Wilson of Manchester

Offered by: Senators Hartwell and Sears

Whereas, one of the most honored and respected EMTs (emergency medical technician) in Vermont was Dale Long, who had served in this role for a quarter of a century on both the Bennington and Manchester rescue squads, and

Whereas, Dale Long was a critical-care EMT, the highest attainable level for EMTs, and was a paramedic supervisor, and

Whereas, the excellence of Dale Long's work and his pivotal contributions to the delivery of emergency medical services in the communities in which he served were recognized repeatedly with local and national awards, and

Whereas, in 1998, Dale Long was recognized as the Vermont EMS Advanced Rescuer of the Year, and, in 2009, the Bennington Rescue Squad named Dale Long as its Member of the Year, and

Whereas, in May 2009, Dale Long traveled to Washington, D.C., where he was honored with the American Ambulance Association's Star of Life award, and

Whereas, when not attending to a rescue squad call, Dale Long worked in the emergency department as a coordinator-technician at Southwestern Vermont Medical Center in Bennington, and

Whereas, the life of this truly special human being ended prematurely on June 15, 2009, when he was killed in an ambulance crash while transporting a patient to a helicopter landing site for a flight to the Albany (New York) Medical Center, and

Whereas, following this tragic accident, a memorial quickly appeared at the accident site in Bennington, an American flag was flown at half-staff at the Bennington Rescue Squad headquarters, and the EMS flag in front of the Vermont Emergency Services Memorial in Pittsford was lowered in his memory, and

Whereas, a procession of over 70 emergency vehicles accompanied the casket of Dale Long on a procession from a Manchester funeral home to his memorial service at Southern Vermont College, and, for the final half-mile, the New York City Fire Department's EMS bagpipe unit led this parade of remembrance and honor, and

Whereas, at the service, approximately 500 family members, friends, and colleagues from Vermont and beyond the state's borders bid him a fond farewell, and

Whereas, Vermont's U.S. Senators have named, in Dale Long's honor, their pending legislation extending the federal Public Safety Officers Benefits

program to the families of paramedics who are killed or disabled in the line of duty and whose employers were nonprofit organizations or ambulance services, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly extends its profound condolences to the family of Dale Long, including his sons, Carsen and Timothy, and his grandchildren Alexzander and Cheyenne, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Bennington Rescue Squad and to Dale Long's sons.