

**No. R-339. House concurrent resolution in memory of former Vermont State Poet Ruth Stone of Goshen.**

(H.C.R.233)

Offered by: Representative Jewett of Ripton

Whereas, the power of a brief poetic stanza can be as immensely moving and perhaps even more memorable than a lengthy novel, and

Whereas, Ruth Stone, the Vermont State Poet from 2007 to 2011, mastered the poetic genre, applying her narrative gift of muse in emotionally intense and personally revealing verses that often spoke of adversities she had confronted as a widow with three young daughters, and

Whereas, she was born in Roanoke, Virginia, and eventually chose Vermont's natural beauty and invigorating winters and an old farmhouse in the rural Addison County town of Goshen as the conducive locale for exercising her poetic creativity, and

Whereas, her first published collection of poems, entitled *In an Iridescent Time*, appeared in bookstores after the death of her husband and quietly started a long and, at times, difficult career path whose ultimate destination was recognition bestowed on only a few poets of great esteem, and

Whereas, long after her husband's untimely death in 1959, Ruth Stone continued to return to this central topic in her life, especially in her second compilation, *Topography and Other Poems*, published in 1971 and, many years later, in the poem "March 15, 1998," and

Whereas, as a means of financial support and as a way to fulfill her desire to entice others to appreciate the poetic verse, she became an itinerant college instructor, eventually being awarded tenure at the State University of New York at Binghamton, and

Whereas, Ruth Stone was the recipient of the 2000 National Book Critics Circle Award for her 1999 compilation *Ordinary Words*, and in 2002, by then a wise woman of 87, she was honored with the prestigious National Book Award for her collection *In the Next Galaxy*, and

Whereas, when Ruth Stone was in her tenth decade, the state of Vermont bestowed upon this tireless scribe who ultimately published 13 volumes the accolade Vermont State Poet for a term extending from 2007 to 2011, evoking comparisons with another Addison County poetic genius named Robert Frost, and

Whereas, Ruth Stone died in November 2011 at the age of 96, leaving three daughters—Abigail, Phoebe, and Marcia—seven grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly remembers with admiration and respect the former Vermont State Poet Ruth Stone, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to each of her daughters.