

No. R-499. House concurrent resolution in memory of St. Michael's college alumni Michael and Jill Casey.

(H.C.R.389)

Offered by: Representatives Campion of Bennington, Branagan of Georgia, Clark of Vergennes, Condon of Colchester, Corcoran of Bennington, Donovan of Burlington, Miller of Shaftsbury, Mook of Bennington, Peltz of Woodbury and Stuart of Brattleboro

Whereas, Jill Schuessler and Michael Casey graduated from St. Michael's College in 1999, she as a dean's list student with a degree in psychology, and he as a double major in political science and environmental studies, and

Whereas, their desire to make an important societal contribution led them to become educators in the rainforest village of Gallon Jug in Belize, and

Whereas, they departed for Belize in 2001, and for nine years they were educational leaders at the village's community school with Michael serving as principal and Jill as the 3rd and 4th grade teacher, and

Whereas, Jill Schuessler became known in Gallon Jug as Miss Jill for her grace and loving kindness and especially for the annual Christmas musical production she organized, involving both children and adults in the village, and

Whereas, Jill and Michael were married on a hillside in Gallon Jug in January 2006, and

Whereas, they became the parents of Makayla and Bryce, and

Whereas, they greatly enjoyed exploring Belize on horseback, hiking, and sailing and were avid observers of the flora and fauna, and

Whereas, Michael Casey was also the president of World's Window, Inc., an Albany, New York-based charity that "seeks to develop, support, and

expand education initiatives and programs in areas of need throughout Belize, New York and beyond, . . .” and

Whereas, on February 26, 2010, the entire Casey family was killed in a plane crash while flying to a fundraising event for the school, and

Whereas, this tragic loss of young lives, and of persons dedicated to making a positive difference in the world, brought great sadness to the St. Michael’s College campus and Jill and Michael Casey’s extended families, and

Whereas, surviving family members of Jill Casey include her mother, Linda Schuessler of Marion, Massachusetts, her sister, Amanda, her husband, Ben, and their son, Payson, who were also residing in Gallon Jug, and a sister, Melissa of Providence, Rhode Island; and Michael Casey’s family includes his parents, Frank and Penny Casey of Albany, N.Y., and his siblings, Shawn, Chris, Daniel, and Kelly and her husband, Craig, and their children, Casey, Quinn, and Eryn, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly expresses its sincere sympathy to the families of St. Michael’s College alumni Jill and Michael Casey, and be it further

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