

No. R-511. House concurrent resolution in memory of Addison County Sheriff James Coons.

(H.C.R.395)

Offered by: Representatives Nuovo of Middlebury, Clark of Vergennes, Fisher of Lincoln, Jewett of Ripton, Lanpher of Vergennes, Ralston of Middlebury, Sharpe of Bristol, Smith of New Haven, Stevens of Shoreham and Lippert of Hinesburg

Offered by: Senators Ayer and Giard

Whereas, Addison County Sheriff James Coons was the much-respected dean of Vermont's sheriffs and a mentor for his professional colleagues, and

Whereas, he has been described as gregarious and savvy, and during Jim Coons's 29 years of proudly serving as Addison County sheriff, his department evolved into a modern law enforcement operation, and

Whereas, a lifelong resident of Middlebury, Jim Coons graduated from Middlebury Union High School and Champlain College, and

Whereas, he began his law enforcement career as a Middlebury police officer and was selected to serve as acting chief, and

Whereas, he opted not to apply for the permanent position, but instead ran for Addison County sheriff, a position his father, Morton Coons, had once held, and

Whereas, in November 1982, Jim Coons handily won his first election and would never again experience a serious challenge at the ballot box, and

Whereas, Sheriff Jim Coons's dynamic and visionary leadership resulted in an increase to 28 full- and part-time officers, the vehicle fleet's development,

and the expansion and modernization of his department's Middlebury headquarters, and

Whereas, the officers of the Addison County Sheriff's Department are expertly trained and often provide support to other jurisdictions, and

Whereas, Sheriff Jim Coons was an admired leader of the Vermont Sheriffs' Association, having served as its president and, most recently, vice president, and of the Vermont Police Association, of which he was a past president and life member, and

Whereas, his diverse personal interests included playing guitar in various bands, collecting classic muscle cars and vintage guitars, and serving on the board of trustees of the Middlebury United Methodist Church, which he had chaired, and

Whereas, this much-praised law enforcement officer died after a battle with cancer on April 16, 2012, causing much sadness in Addison County, and

Whereas, Sheriff Jim Coons's survivors include his wife, Julie, sons Jeffrey and Jeremy, his sister Debra and much extended family, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly expresses its condolences to the family and many friends of Addison County Sheriff Jim Coons, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Julie, Jeffrey, and Jeremy Coons, Debra Bagley, and to the Addison County Sheriff's Department.