

State of Vermont

Senate Chamber



Montpelier, Vermont

Senate Concurrent Resolution

By All Members of the Senate,

By All Members of the House,

S.C.R. 5. Senate concurrent resolution honoring Howard Frank Mosher, the Northeast Kingdom's special chronicler and literary ambassador.

Whereas, the fictionalized, but inherently authentic, stories and voices of Vermont's fabled Northeast Kingdom (NEK) are preserved in the writings of the author Howard Frank Mosher, and

Whereas, the three essential writing principles that his eighth grade teacher, Mrs. Earla Armstrong, taught him (to read the classics, revise your work, and write about what you know), have remained with him throughout his illustrious career, and

Whereas, in 1964, upon his graduating from Syracuse University, Howard Frank Mosher and his wife, Phillis, left their native upstate New York and headed for the NEK, which he immediately recognized as an author's gold mine of stories, and

Whereas, during his early years in Vermont, Howard Frank Mosher taught at the former Orleans High School and Lake Region Union High School, and

Whereas, in a collaboration with NEK filmmaker Jay Craven, four of Howard Frank Mosher novels, *Where the Rivers Flow North*, *A Stranger in the Kingdom*, *Disappearances*, and *Northern Borders*, have been transformed into movies, and

Whereas, Howard Frank Mosher's talent as a writer has been recognized through his receipt of a Guggenheim Fellowship, the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters Literature Award, the Vermont Governor's Award for Excellence in the Arts, and the New England Independent Booksellers Association's President's Award for Lifetime Achievement in the Arts. The Vermont College of Fine Arts' Howard Frank Mosher Short Fiction Prize is a lasting tribute to the author and his published works, and

Whereas, he has written that Kingdom Common, the quintessential NEK town central to much of his writing, is located approximately where Orleans is situated, although infused with elements from other NEK communities, and that his favorite protagonists, the Kinnesons, are based on his own "pretty strange outfit" of a family, and

Whereas, for 40 years, Howard Frank and Phillis Mosher have resided in Irasburg, and in December 2016, he donated his beloved personal book collection to Irasburg's Leach Memorial Library, writing in an accompanying Christmas letter, "I love to write...But I live to read," *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors Howard Frank Mosher, the Northeast Kingdom's special chronicler and literary ambassador, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Howard Frank Mosher.