

No. R-118. Senate concurrent resolution in memory of Springfield civic leader and consummate volunteer Jean Muriel (Follett) Willard.

(S.C.R.11)

By Senators McCormack, Clarkson, and Nitka,

By Representatives Bock of Chester, Emmons of Springfield, and Forguites of Springfield,

Whereas, Jean Follett was born on March 11, 1927, spent her early youth on the family's farm in Townshend, and moved to North Springfield as a teenager, and

Whereas, Jean Follett graduated from Springfield High School and earned an associate's degree at the Community College of Vermont, and

Whereas, she married Harold (Sonny) Willard in 1947, beginning a loving marriage of 57 years that continued until his death in 2004, and

Whereas, for 25 years, she sat on the Springfield Board of Civil Authority, including 19 years as a justice of the peace and serving as the selectboard's vice chair and chair, and

Whereas, a strong interest in public education prompted her to stand successfully for election to the Springfield School Board, and her conscientious leadership was exercised as both the board's vice chair and chair, and

Whereas, in a political context, Jean Willard was a member of the Springfield Republican Committee, and

Whereas, she belonged to the Windsor County Selectboard Association, participated in court diversion activities, and served on the Vermont-New Hampshire Solid Waste District Executive Committee, and

Whereas, aside from political and civic roles, Jean Willard was an active 4-H volunteer, and even into her 80s, she was busy writing a history of the North Springfield Baptist Church, advocating for the preservation of the former North Springfield School as a youth recreation center, and opposing the proposed construction of a biomass plant in North Springfield, and

Whereas, on March 21, 2017, Jean Willard, whose persuasive political skills, enthusiastic volunteer engagement, and dauntless fighting for just causes earned her the nicknames "the Boss," "the gentle pit bull," and during the 1992 reapportionment process at the State House as "the Better Springfield Lady," died at 90 years of age, and her survivors include four children, Steve, Richard, Cynthia, and Brenda; six grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; and her brother, Robert, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly extends its sincere condolences to the family of Springfield civic leader and consummate volunteer Jean M. Willard, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the members of Jean M. Willard's family.