

**No. R-93. Senate concurrent resolution in memory of former Shrewsbury Selectboard Chair Donald Parrish.**

(S.C.R.18)

By Senators French, Flory, and Mullin,

By Representatives Burditt of West Rutland, Canfield of Fair Haven, Carr of Brandon, Cupoli of Rutland City, Fagan of Rutland City, Gage of Rutland City, Gallivan of Chittenden, Helm of Fair Haven, Malcolm of Pawlet, Russell of Rutland City, Shaw of Pittsford, and Terenzini of Rutland Town,

*Whereas*, Don Parrish was born in Washington, D.C. and for many years resided in the Town of Shrewsbury, and

*Whereas*, he was a dedicated advocate for persons with disabilities and a distinguished local public servant, and

*Whereas*, during the early part of his working life, Don Parrish was a U.S. Postal Service employee, and

*Whereas*, Don Parrish began a new career at Vermont Legal Aid (VLA) in Rutland, serving as the chief advocate in the Client Assistance Program which is under the auspices of the VLA's Disability Law Project, and

*Whereas*, in 2004, Don Parrish earned a bachelor's degree in legal studies from Woodbury College, and

*Whereas*, Don Parrish represented his clients effectively, always keeping their best interests as his first priority, and

*Whereas*, his reputation as an exemplary advocate and his expertise regarding the administration of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Pub. L. No. 93-112, led the Governor to appoint him to several state panels related to the legal protection of persons with disabilities, and

*Whereas*, Don Parrish always advanced the principle that persons with disabilities are entitled to dignity and self-respect in their daily lives, and

*Whereas*, in the Town of Shrewsbury, Don Parrish served for many years as a member of the Selectboard, including as its recording secretary and chair, as town auditor, on the Boards of the local chamber music society and library, and he had also served as a volunteer firefighter, and

*Whereas*, in 1999, in recognition of his work for the State and the Town of Shrewsbury, Don Parrish was presented a Vermont Public Service Award, and

*Whereas*, Don Parrish lived and worked with energy, passion, dedication, and an unflinching sense of ethics directed toward the goal of social justice, and

*Whereas*, Don Parrish died on September 6, 2012 following a long and courageous battle against cancer, and his survivors include his father Spike, his wife Annette, children Nicholas, Brittany, Zeb, Jensen, and Timothy, granddaughter Zulie, sister Janet, and brothers Rick and Steve, *now therefore be it*

***Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:***

That the General Assembly extends its condolences to the family and many colleagues and friends of Donald Parrish, *and be it further*

***Resolved:*** That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Annette Parrish, to Vermont Legal Aid in Rutland, and to the Shrewsbury Town Clerk.