

No. R-215. House concurrent resolution in memory of Sister Janice E. Ryan, RSM.

(H.C.R. 142)

Offered by: Representatives Bluemle of Burlington, Anthony of Barre City, Arrison of Weathersfield, Black of Essex, Brennan of Colchester, Briglin of Thetford, Brown of Richmond, Brownell of Pownal, Burke of Brattleboro, Burrows of West Windsor, Coffey of Guilford, Colston of Winooski, Conlon of Cornwall, Cordes of Lincoln, Cupoli of Rutland City, Dickinson of St. Albans Town, Dolan of Essex, Garofano of Essex, Goldman of Rockingham, Gregoire of Fairfield, Hango of Berkshire, Harrison of Chittenden, Hooper of Burlington, Howard of Rutland City, James of Manchester, Killacky of South Burlington, Lippert of Hinesburg, Long of Newfane, Marcotte of Coventry, Masland of Thetford, McCormack of Burlington, Morrissey of Bennington, Mulvaney-Stanak of Burlington, Murphy of Fairfax, Norris of Sheldon, Norris of Shoreham, Ode of Burlington, Partridge of Windham, Pugh of South Burlington, Rachelson of Burlington, Rosenquist of Georgia, Scheu of Middlebury, Sims of Craftsbury, Small of Winooski, Squirrell of Underhill, Stebbins of Burlington, Stevens of Waterbury, Surprenant of Barnard, Townsend of South Burlington, Troiano of Stannard, Webb of Shelburne, Whitman of Bennington, Wood of Waterbury, Yacovone of Morristown, and Yantachka of Charlotte

Offered by: Senators Balint, Benning, Brock, Champion, Chittenden, Clarkson, Collamore, Cummings, Hardy, Hooker, Kitchel, Lyons, Nitka, Pearson, Ram Hinsdale, Sears, Starr, and White

Whereas, Sister Janice E. Ryan, RSM was born on a dairy farm in Fairfield in 1936, graduated from Mount Saint Mary Academy and Trinity College in Burlington, earned a master's degree in special education from Boston University, and completed graduate studies at Harvard University and the University of Lund in Sweden, and

Whereas, in 1957, she took vows as a new member of the Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy, and, as a Sister for 68 years, she dedicated her life to advancing social justice—in education, for Vermonters with disabilities, and for those involved in the State's criminal justice system, and

Whereas, Sister Janice served as president of Trinity College from 1979 to 1996, influencing education at all class levels and showing young women that education was a critical way to develop social and economic power, and

Whereas, she insisted throughout her career that with power comes a responsibility for using that power for good, and

Whereas, she exuded humor and pragmatism, possessed an ability to appreciate small victories and moments of beauty, and delighted in burnt hot dogs, and

Whereas, her efforts to encourage leaders across the political spectrum, particularly women, boosted their confidence to strive toward ends they would never have imagined possible, and

Whereas, the source of Sister Janice's influence lay less in her varied positions of authority than in the respect and desire for connection she brought to every conversation, and

Whereas, throughout her life, Sister Janice reflected the clarity of purpose, deep compassion, and radical hospitality of her congregation and its Vermont members who have played a critical role in affirming the dignity of all Vermonters, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly extends its sincere condolences to the family of Sister Janice E. Ryan, RSM and its gratitude to the members of her spiritual family, the Sisters of Mercy, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Sisters of Mercy and to the members of Sister Janice Ryan's family.