

No. R-15. House concurrent resolution honoring the Dean of the House of Representatives, Michael Obuchowski of Rockingham.

(H.C.R.6)

Offered by: All Members of the House

Offered by: All Members of the Senate

Whereas, historians of Vermont will write glowingly of Representative Michael J. Obuchowski of Rockingham (Bellows Falls), whose 38-year tenure (1973–2011) surpassed the longevity of any preceding House member, and

Whereas, Representative Michael Obuchowski (known universally as Obie) created a remarkable legacy of accomplishment, and

Whereas, as a 20-year-old Harvard University student, Michael Obuchowski—first and foremost a man of action and not of academe—stood for election to what was then the District 13-1 seat, and

Whereas, this seemingly brash decision inaugurated a momentous legislative career, and

Whereas, successful at the polls on Election Day 1972, he took the oath of office on January 3, 1973 and was soon assigned to serve on the House Committee on Education, and, in subsequent biennia, he chaired the House Committees on Education, Energy, Commerce, and Appropriations as well as the Joint Committee on Energy, and

Whereas, in 1995, his fellow members bestowed on him their highest esteem, electing him Speaker of the House, a post he filled with great

distinction and diplomacy while setting endurance records for standing at the speaker's rostrum, and

Whereas, returning to seat 120 in 2001, Obie began a new phase of his legislative life that has included service as Vice Chair of the Committee on Transportation, Chair of the Joint Committee on Transportation, and, since 2005, Chair of the Committee on Ways and Means, where his broad legislative experience has proven invaluable, and

Whereas, this man of the House developed deep and abiding friendships with members from all political persuasions, and

Whereas, his wife, Clare Buckley, and he are the proud parents of two-month-old twins Jack and Nora, and

Whereas, newly elected Governor Peter Shumlin has selected Representative Michael Obuchowski as Commissioner of Buildings and General Services, an appointment that brings to an end his historic legislative service, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly, with abiding friendship, profound respect, and best well wishes, honors the Dean of the House of Representatives, Michael Obuchowski of Rockingham, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Representative Michael Obuchowski.