

State of Vermont House of Representatives



Montpelier, Vermont

Concurrent House Resolution

H.C.R. 139

House concurrent resolution in memory of Susan Elizabeth Keese Pyatak of South Newfane

Offered by: Representatives Long of Newfane, Beck of St. Johnsbury, Berry of Manchester, Burke of Brattleboro, Buxton of Tunbridge, Carr of Brandon, Christie of Hartford, Cole of Burlington, Conquest of Newbury, Copeland-Hanzas of Bradford, Cupoli of Rutland City, Dakin of Chester, Dakin of Colchester, Deen of Westminster, Eastman of Orwell, Ellis of Waterbury, Emmons of Springfield, Evans of Essex, Fields of Bennington, Forguites of Springfield, Frank of Underhill, French of Randolph, Head of South Burlington, Jerman of Essex, Juskiewicz of Cambridge, Krebs of South Hero, Krowinski of Burlington, LaLonde of South Burlington, Lenes of Shelburne, Macaig of Williston, Manwaring of Wilmington, Martin of Wolcott, Masland of Thetford, McCormack of Burlington, McCullough of Williston, Miller of Shaftsbury, Morris of Bennington, Murphy of Fairfax, Nuovo of Middlebury, Partridge of Windham, Patt of Worcester, Potter of Clarendon, Russell of Rutland City, Sharpe of Bristol, Sheldon of Middlebury, Sibia of Dover, Stuart of Brattleboro, Sullivan of Burlington, Sweaney of Windsor, Till of Jericho, Townsend of South Burlington, Troiano of Stannard, Walz of Barre City, Wright of Burlington, and Yantachka of Charlotte

Whereas, the warm and always informative voice of Susan Keese was familiar to listeners of Vermont Public Radio (VPR), where this talented journalist started as a Vermont Edition producer in 2002 and served as the station's Manchester-based southern Vermont correspondent since 2009, and

Whereas, her diverse broadcast portfolio included coverage of Vermont Yankee and Tropical Storm Irene and fun features on the Gilfeather Turnip Festival and a Vermont-themed puppet show, and

Whereas, Susan Keese took great pride in preparing every story, be it lighthearted or momentous, and

Whereas, she covered a large geographic territory and kept a sleeping bag in her car in case an unexpected, overnight reporting adventure developed, and

Whereas, even though Susan Keese worked a considerable distance from VPR's Colchester headquarters, she was admired as a wonderful supporter of her colleagues and was happy to offer her advice and suggestions on their projects, and

Whereas, prior to this award-winning journalist's speaking a single word on VPR's airwaves and cyber streams, she was a professionally accomplished writer and editor who led and taught at creative writing workshops, and

Whereas, Susan Keese was born in Philadelphia and attended Wittenberg College in Springfield, Ohio, before the pull of the 1960s counterculture movement and a strong desire to be a writer attracted her to New York, and

Whereas, her life's explorations included stops across the nation before meeting her future husband, Bud Pyatak, at a New Hampshire commune, and

Whereas, after their marriage, the Pyataks lived in Connecticut then moved to Vermont, first to Brattleboro and eventually to South Newfane, and

Whereas, Vermont proved journalistically conducive as Susan Keese edited the Marlboro College alumni magazine, *Potash Hill*, wrote the *No Stone Unturned* column in the *Rutland Herald-Times Argus Sunday Magazine* and articles for the *Boston Globe*, the *New York Times*, *Vermont Life*, and other publications, and

Whereas, this wonderful wife, mother of Annie and Christopher, grandmother of Zoe, Callin, and Emmett, sister of James, and a dear relative, colleague, and friend to many others died all too soon on March 7, 2015, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly extends sincere condolences to the family, colleagues, and friends of Susan Keese Pyatak, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the members of her family and to Vermont Public Radio.