

No. R-94. House concurrent resolution honoring former representative and outgoing Sergeant at Arms Francis K. Brooks of Montpelier for his dedicated public service.

(H.C.R.61)

Offered by: All Members of the House

Offered by: All Members of the Senate

Whereas, Francis Brooks is a man who has educated, represented, and protected Vermonters in Montpelier for nearly half a century, and

Whereas, as an African American, he attended the segregated school system of Alexandria, Virginia, and rose above this unjustified academic restriction, graduating from Norwich University and earning a master's degree from Clarkson College (now University), and

Whereas, for many years, Francis Brooks taught chemistry and physics at Montpelier High School, and

Whereas, in 1982, the voters of Montpelier elected Francis Brooks to represent them in the House of Representatives, where he served with distinction during 25 biennial or adjourned sessions (1983–2007), and

Whereas, as a state legislator, Francis Brooks held the challenging role of House Majority Leader (1987–1992) and served on the Committees on Appropriations (1993–2002), Transportation (2003–2004), and General, Housing, and Military Affairs (2005–2007), which he also chaired (2005–2006), and

Whereas, legislative leadership often asked Representative Francis Brooks, one of the members from Montpelier, to preside at token sessions intended to move the legislative calendar forward at critical moments during the biennium, and

Whereas, in 2007, Representative Francis Brooks' colleagues in the General Assembly elected him as the State House Sergeant at Arms, and

Whereas, when not serving in one of his public sector roles, Francis Brooks has devoted many hours to serving his beloved Baptist Church as a powerful lay preacher and vocal soloist, and

Whereas, on Friday, February 20, 2015, Sergeant at Arms Francis Brooks gave an inspirational and moving devotional in the House chamber, addressing the topic of adversity in life, and

Whereas, after more than two decades as a legislator and eight years as the Sergeant at Arms, Francis Brooks is now concluding 32 years (1983–2015) of outstanding public service at the Vermont State House, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors former Representative and outgoing Sergeant at Arms Francis K. Brooks of Montpelier for his dedicated public service to the citizens of Vermont, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Francis Brooks.