

NO. R-310. JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING CLAIRE OGLESBY FOR HER EXEMPLARY CAREER AS A PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHER WHO INSTILLS IN HER STUDENTS AN APPRECIATION FOR CULTURAL DIVERSITY.

(J.R.H. 248)

Offered by: Representatives Darrow of Newfane, Cross of Winooski, Darrow of Dummerston, Deen of Westminster, Doyle of Richmond, Jordan of Middlesex, Kreitzer of Rutland City, Miller of Shaftsbury, Obuchowski of Rockingham, Osman of Plainfield, Partridge of Windham, Smith of Sudbury, Suchmann of Chester and Vincent of Waterbury.

Whereas, Claire Oglesby is a very special public school educator whose goals are hardly confined to the rudimentary skills of reading, writing and arithmetic, and

Whereas, for 45 years, she has inspired young children to experience different cultures as a way to appreciate the diversity of our world, and

Whereas, after graduating from Mills College of Education in New York City, she commenced her teaching career at the Brooklyn Community Woodward School, one of the first public schools in the United States dedicated to interracial education, and

Whereas, after teaching at the Walden School in New York, Claire Oglesby migrated to Putney, Vermont where she taught at the Grammar School and the Putney Central School before coming to her true home, Westminster West, a two-classroom school, where since 1966, she has been a much beloved first and second grade instructor, and

Whereas, each year she has focused on a specific culture, such as India or Africa, as a way of conveying to her young students the fundamental importance of cultural diversity and intercultural understanding, and

Whereas, Claire Oglesby's innovative and individualized child-centered teaching has won much praise, and has been the subject of three films, two designed for teacher training, and most recently, a wonderful documentary by Lisa Merton and Alan Dater entitled, "The World in Claire's Classroom," and

Whereas, in recognition of her outstanding contribution to intercultural understanding and the children of Vermont, she has been the recipient of numerous honors, including the 1970 Vermont Teacher of the Year Award, the World of Difference Award from the Anti-Defamation League, the Unsung Heroes Award from Northern Life Insurance Company, and an honorary master's degree from Marlboro College for excellence in education, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly is pleased to honor Claire Oglesby for her enduring contribution to the children of Vermont, as a caring and innovative educator, who teaches by instilling in her students an appreciation for cultures different from their own, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Claire Oglesby at the Westminster West School.