

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED BY THE

ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION
August 29, 2013

SECOND REGULAR SESSION
January 8, 2014 to May 2, 2014

THE EFFECTIVE DATE FOR
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION
EMERGENCY LAW IS
SEPTEMBER 6, 2013

THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR
SECOND REGULAR SESSION
NON-EMERGENCY LAWS IS
AUGUST 1, 2014

PUBLISHED BY THE REVISOR OF STATUTES
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MAINE REVISED STATUTES ANNOTATED,
TITLE 3, SECTION 163-A, SUBSECTION 4.

Augusta, Maine
2014

SELECTED MEMORIALS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

**JOINT RESOLUTION
HONORING SENATOR
GEORGE J. MITCHELL ON
THE OCCASION OF THE
UNVEILING OF HIS
OFFICIAL PORTRAIT IN
THE STATE HOUSE**

S.P. 690

WHEREAS, Resolve 2003, chapter 142 authorized the commissioning of an official portrait of the Honorable George J. Mitchell to hang in the State House alongside portraits of other notable and important citizens of Maine; and

WHEREAS, the portrait is in honor of a distinguished public servant from Maine and serves as a token of our respect and appreciation for his years of commitment to the people of Maine and the Nation; and

WHEREAS, Senator Mitchell, a Waterville native, received an undergraduate degree from Bowdoin College and a law degree from Georgetown University Law Center; and

WHEREAS, after serving in the United States Army Counter-Intelligence Corps, Senator Mitchell started his professional career as a trial attorney in the Antitrust Division of the United States Department of Justice in 1960 and in 1962 he joined the congressional staff of Senator Edmund S. Muskie; and

WHEREAS, Senator Mitchell entered private practice in Portland in 1965 and was then appointed Assistant Cumberland County Attorney in 1970, United States Attorney by President Jimmy Carter in 1977 and United States District Judge by President Jimmy Carter in 1979; and

WHEREAS, after being appointed to complete the unexpired term of Senator Edmund S. Muskie, who resigned to become Secretary of State, Senator Mitchell served in the United States Senate from 1980 to 1995 and as Senate Majority Leader from 1988 to 1995 with great distinction; and

WHEREAS, Senator Mitchell achieved a notable legislative record in his 15 years in the Senate, particularly in the areas of the environment and health care, sponsoring the Clean Water Act of 1987 and the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990, and served with distinction on the Iran-Contra committee; and

WHEREAS, Senator Mitchell was held in the highest esteem by his Senate colleagues and congressional staff and was voted "the most respected member" of the Senate by a bipartisan group of senior congressional aides for 6 consecutive years; and

WHEREAS, upon leaving the Senate in 1995, Senator Mitchell served at President Bill Clinton's request as a Special Advisor to Northern Ireland and from 1996 to 2000 he served as the independent chairman of the Northern Ireland peace talks; and

WHEREAS, under his leadership the Good Friday Agreement, an historic accord ending decades of conflict, was agreed to by the governments of the Republic of Ireland and the United Kingdom and the political parties of Northern Ireland; and

WHEREAS, for his service in Northern Ireland, Senator Mitchell received numerous awards and honors, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honor given by the United States Government; the Liberty Medal; the Truman Institute Peace Prize; and the Felix Houphouet-Boigny Peace Prize; and

WHEREAS, in 2000 and 2001, at the request of President Bill Clinton, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak and President of the Palestinian National Authority Yasser Arafat, Senator Mitchell served as chairman of an international fact-finding committee on violence in the Middle East; and

WHEREAS, the committee's recommendation, widely known as the Mitchell Report, was endorsed by the administration of President George W. Bush, the European Union and many other governments; and

WHEREAS, Senator Mitchell continued his public service, leading the investigation into the use of performance-enhancing drugs in major league baseball and serving as chairman of the special commission investigating allegations of impropriety in the bidding process for the Olympic Games and as the independent overseer of the American Red Cross Liberty Fund, which provided relief for September 11, 2001 attack victims and their families; and

WHEREAS, President Barack H. Obama selected Senator Mitchell as United States Special Envoy to the Middle East in 2009; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Twenty-sixth Legislature now assembled in the Second Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, on this occasion of the unveiling of the official portrait of Senator George J. Mitchell, celebrate his notable and exemplary public service career and his dedication to the State of Maine and the Nation and to the pursuit of peace and justice for everyone; and be it further

RESOLVED: That a suitable copy of this resolution, duly authenticated by the Secretary of State, be transmitted to the Honorable George J. Mitchell with our appreciation and respect.

SELECTED MEMORIALS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

Passed by the House and Senate in joint convention
on January 28, 2014.

**JOINT RESOLUTION
HONORING WREATHS
ACROSS AMERICA**

H.P. 1296

WHEREAS, Wreaths Across America is a yearly national program that honors the graves of veterans buried in Arlington National Cemetery; and

WHEREAS, in 1992, the Worcester Wreath Company in Harrington had a surplus of wreaths at the end of that holiday season and owner Morrill Worcester, who had been indelibly impressed by the national cemetery during a boyhood visit, realized he had an opportunity to honor the values of our nation and the veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country; and

WHEREAS, with the help of United States Senator Olympia Snowe, arrangements were made for the wreaths to be placed in Arlington National Cemetery in one of the older sections that had seen fewer visitors through the years; and

WHEREAS, as other individuals and groups stepped in to assist, more grave sites were decorated and the delivery of wreaths became an annual event to quietly honor our country's veterans; and

WHEREAS, in 2005, a photograph of grave-stones decorated with wreaths from Maine and covered in snow attracted national attention to Wreaths Across America and requests came pouring in from across the nation to support Wreaths Across America; and

WHEREAS, as so many people in other states wanted to help and emulate the Arlington National Cemetery project at their national and state cemeteries, Mr. Worcester began sending 7 wreaths to every state, honoring the branches of the military and prisoners of war and personnel missing in action; and

WHEREAS, in 2006, with the help of the Civil Air Patrol and other civic organizations, simultaneous wreath-laying ceremonies were held at over 150 locations around the country, with the Patriot Guard Riders volunteering as the escort for the wreaths going to Arlington National Cemetery; and

WHEREAS, the annual Veterans Honor Parade, traveling the East Coast in early December from Harrington to Arlington National Cemetery, has become known as the world's largest veterans parade; and

WHEREAS, Wreaths Across America is now a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization and throughout the year works to remind people of the importance of the program's mission, "Remember. Honor. Teach."; and

WHEREAS, in 2013, Wreaths Across America delivered more than 142,000 wreaths to Arlington National Cemetery and 900 other cemeteries and memorials across the country; and

WHEREAS, as the 150th Anniversary of the establishment of Arlington National Cemetery approaches in 2014, Wreaths Across America seeks to reach a point where every gravestone in Arlington National Cemetery is honored with a wreath; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Twenty-sixth Legislature, now assembled in the Second Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, send our appreciation to Morrill Worcester and Wreaths Across America for their extraordinary commitment to honoring the memory of the brave men and women who served this nation so valiantly in the defense of freedom; and be it further

RESOLVED: That suitable copies of this resolution, duly authenticated by the Secretary of State, be transmitted to Morrill Worcester and to Wreaths Across America with our appreciation and respect.

**Read and adopted by the House of Representatives
March 11, 2014 and the Senate March 12, 2014.**
