



General Assembly

**House Joint  
Resolution No. 102**

*January Session, 2015*

LCO No. 7699



Referred to Committee on No Committee

Introduced by:

REP. CASE, 63<sup>rd</sup> Dist.

REP. WILLIS, 64<sup>th</sup> Dist.

REP. PISCOPO, 76<sup>th</sup> Dist.

SEN. WITKOS, 8<sup>th</sup> Dist.

REP. COOK, 65<sup>th</sup> Dist.

SEN. CHAPIN, 30<sup>th</sup> Dist.

**RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SYMPATHY ON THE DEATH OF JOSEPH  
N. RUWET.**

Resolved by this Assembly:

1 WHEREAS, on Friday, September 12, 2014, the State of Connecticut  
2 lost one of its distinguished former state representatives with the  
3 passing of Joseph N. Ruwet at the age of ninety-six; and

4 WHEREAS, he was a lifelong resident of Torrington, born in  
5 Torrington on October 9, 1917, to Louis J. and Alice Begey Ruwet; and

6 WHEREAS, he purchased a portion of his family farm on  
7 Torrington Street in his early twenties and ran the farm for several  
8 decades; and

9 WHEREAS, he started his dairy enterprise with a small herd of  
10 Brown Swiss cows and expanded the farm to include more than three  
11 hundred animals; and

12 WHEREAS, in the 1960s he, in partnership with another farmer,

13 pioneered the first stainless-steel milk tank on the farm and formed a  
14 milk transportation business called Rapid Dairy Transport Milk  
15 Hauling to provide both farmers and consumers with better quality  
16 milk;

17 WHEREAS, he was an entrepreneur who partnered with his family  
18 and friends to develop many agricultural ventures, such as Ruwet and  
19 Sibley and Ruwet Chemical Company; and

20 WHEREAS, he had extensive involvement in the dairy industry and  
21 Connecticut agriculture, including serving on the Milk Regulation  
22 Board for many decades; and

23 WHEREAS, he was appointed by Governor Meskill to serve as  
24 Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture; and

25 WHEREAS, he served as representative of the 64<sup>th</sup> district in the  
26 House of Representatives from 1980 to 1992, proudly representing  
27 Torrington, Canaan, Cornwall, Goshen, Kent, Sharon and Warren; and

28 WHEREAS, during his time in the General Assembly he prioritized  
29 the preservation of farmland in the state and worked to ensure that the  
30 Connecticut countryside remain clean and beautiful; and

31 WHEREAS, he was a giving person, who was happy to bring corn  
32 he had grown to share with the people he worked with at the State  
33 Capitol; and

34 WHEREAS, he gave freely of his time and talent and was an active  
35 member of the Torrington community, including having served as the  
36 director of Yankee Milk, Inc. and of the Southern New England  
37 Production Credit Association and the Federal Land Bank, president of  
38 the Litchfield County Farm Bureau and the Litchfield County  
39 Agricultural Center and was an active member of the local, state and  
40 national Grange, as well as the 4-H clubs and International Farm Youth  
41 Exchange; and

42 WHEREAS, he was one of the organizing founders of the  
43 Torrington and Burrville Volunteer Fire Department in Torrington, an  
44 active member of the Rotary Club, which recognized him as a Paul  
45 Harris Fellow, the Knights of Columbus, the Torrington YMCA and  
46 the Republican Town Committee and was also a parishioner of St.  
47 Francis Church in Torrington; and

48 WHEREAS, he was supported in all of his endeavors by his beloved  
49 late wife, Virginia "Vee" Carroll Ruwet, his seven children, seventeen  
50 grandchildren and thirteen great-grandchildren; and

51 WHEREAS, he instilled in his family his love of public service, as  
52 evidenced by his daughter Anne Ruwet who is a city councilwoman  
53 and former state representative and his grandson Ryan Bingham who  
54 served as mayor of Torrington; and

55 WHEREAS, he loved his family more than anything, and always  
56 exemplified kindness and a willingness to help others in his  
57 community; and

58 WHEREAS, he was described by others as a person of the highest  
59 ideals and integrity; and

60 WHEREAS, he was a farmer, beloved husband, father, grandfather  
61 and great-grandfather, respected statesman, prominent business  
62 owner and tireless advocate for the agricultural community.

63 NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Connecticut  
64 General Assembly expresses its sincere sympathy and heartfelt  
65 condolences on the passing of Joseph N. Ruwet, whose death is a  
66 profound loss to the General Assembly, his family and friends, the city  
67 of Torrington, the agricultural community and the State of  
68 Connecticut;

69 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the clerks of the Senate and  
70 House of Representatives cause a copy of this resolution to be sent to  
71 the family of Joseph N. Ruwet as an expression of the high esteem and

72 affection in which he was held.