



General Assembly

**House Joint
Resolution No. 177**

February Session, 2016

LCO No. 4227



Referred to Committee on No Committee

Introduced by:

REP. SHARKEY, 88th Dist.
REP. ARESIMOWICZ, 30th Dist.
REP. KLARIDES, 114th Dist.
REP. GRESKO, 121st Dist.
REP. HOYDICK, 120th Dist.
REP. MCGORTY, 122nd Dist.

SEN. LOONEY, 11th Dist.
SEN. DUFF, 25th Dist.
SEN. FASANO, 34th Dist.
SEN. KELLY, 21st Dist.
SEN. GOMES, 23rd Dist.

**RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SYMPATHY ON THE DEATH OF
REPRESENTATIVE TERRY BACKER.**

Resolved by this Assembly:

1 WHEREAS, on Monday, December 14, 2015, the State of
2 Connecticut and the town of Stratford lost a distinguished and beloved
3 State Representative with the passing of Terry Backer, at the age of
4 sixty-one;

5 WHEREAS, he represented the 121st district with distinction from
6 1993 to the date of his passing; and

7 WHEREAS, he was born in Stamford, Connecticut, on August 3,
8 1954, and attended Norwalk public schools; and

9 WHEREAS, he later earned a license as a Merchant Marine officer

10 from the United States Coast Guard; and

11 WHEREAS, he was a third-generation commercial fisherman who
12 worked with his father harvesting shellfish from Long Island Sound;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, he was an environmentalist who fought for the
15 preservation of Long Island Sound; and

16 WHEREAS, his efforts and partnership with environmental
17 advocates led to the establishment of the nonprofit Soundkeeper Fund;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, he was appointed the full-time Long Island
20 Soundkeeper in 1988; and

21 WHEREAS, his mission as Soundkeeper was to monitor Long Island
22 Sound's biological integrity, pursue polluters and reduce
23 contamination; restore salt marshes; educate the public; and generate
24 popular support; and

25 WHEREAS, he told the New York Times in 1988, "If we move more
26 citizens to realize the value of Long Island Sound as a natural resource,
27 government will have no choice but to follow their lead."; and

28 WHEREAS, he was a member of the Long Island Sound Advisory
29 Council and the Connecticut Council on Environmental Quality; and

30 WHEREAS, he was first elected as State Representative in 1992,
31 representing the South End of Stratford, including the Lordship
32 neighborhood where he lived; and

33 WHEREAS, he served for twelve terms as State Representative, and
34 served as vice chairman of the Appropriations Committee, chairman of
35 the Energy and Technology Committee, and member of the
36 Environment Committee, the Labor and Public Employees Committee,
37 and the Legislative Regulation Review Committee; and

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38 WHEREAS, he also served as Assistant Majority Leader and
39 Assistant Majority Whip in the Connecticut House of Representatives;
40 and

41 WHEREAS, he is survived by his mother, Catherine Lagana Backer,
42 and his sons, Luke and Jacob; his brother, James; his sisters, Kathleen
43 Patchen and Cheryl McNeill; and a grandson, Caleb Backer.

44 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Connecticut
45 General Assembly expresses its sincere sympathy and heartfelt
46 condolences on the passing of one of its honorable members, Terry
47 Backer, whose death is a profound loss to the House of
48 Representatives, his family and friends, the residents of Stratford and
49 the entire State of Connecticut; and

50 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the clerks of the House of
51 Representatives and the Senate cause a copy of this resolution to be
52 sent to the family of Terry Backer, as an expression of the high esteem
53 and affection in which he is held.