

VERMONT STATE COLLEGES SYSTEM
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
RESOLUTION 2022-018

Northern Vermont University Conferral of Honorary Degree

- WHEREAS, Claire Diane Laferriere Duke grew up in Central Vermont with a passion for education and a life-long dream to become a teacher; however, with limited funding available, her parents could not afford to send both Claire and her older brother to college so she had to forego her dream of earning a college degree; and
- WHEREAS, Claire Diane Laferriere Duke was committed to work hard to support her six children's diverse paths in education before her own; and
- WHEREAS, Claire Diane Laferriere Duke is recognized for her service in Vermont and in the country, being cited in 14 volumes in the Library of Congress, including Who's Who in American Politics, Who's Who of American Women, and Who's Who in America; and
- WHEREAS, Claire Diane Laferriere Duke contributed greatly both to her community and her nation, not letting her lack of college experience stop her from being a dynamo in many areas, including the real estate world, the political world, and community service; and
- WHEREAS, Claire Diane Laferriere Duke has lived her life with exceptional integrity, the highest moral and ethical character, and intense compassion, serving as role model for many; and,
- WHEREAS, In spite of her many achievements, the one thing in life Claire has regretted is not being able to attend Lyndon State College, where she was issued a personal, hand-written invitation to attend from founding President Ms. Rita Bole because of her high academic standing in high school, but was unable to attend and fulfill her dream of becoming a teacher; and
- WHEREAS, Claire Diane Laferriere Duke, through a lifetime of living by example, has become the greatest teacher many have ever known; and,
- WHEREAS, President Grewal has requested that Claire Diane Laferriere Duke be awarded an honorary degree in accordance with the criteria set forth in Policy 107; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, That the VSC Board of Trustees authorizes Northern Vermont University to award Claire Diane Laferriere Duke an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree at its Commencement ceremony in May of 2023.

Approved: March 25, 2023



Eileen "Lynn" Dickinson, Chair of the Board of Trustees