



## STATE OF CONNECTICUT

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

FOR THE STATE COLLEGES

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## RESOLUTION

concerning

RUFUS ROSE

June 13, 1975

WHEREAS, RUFUS ROSE departed this earthly life on May 29, 1975, and

WHEREAS, MR. ROSE served five terms in Connecticut's General Assembly and was House Chairman of the Joint Standing Committee on Education, and

WHEREAS, In this capacity he strongly supported public higher education, including the Connecticut State Colleges, and

WHEREAS, His understanding of the educational process and his love of children is displayed in his superb work as a puppeteer, especially in his creation of the Howdy Doody program, and

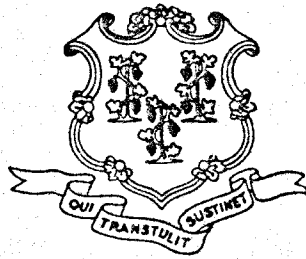
WHEREAS, His warm personality and sage advice will be greatly missed by the Trustees, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees for the Connecticut State Colleges expresses its deep sense of loss and its sorrow at the death of MR. ROSE and acknowledges with gratitude his strong support for the work of the Board.

A Certified True Copy:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "James A. Frost", written over a horizontal line.

James A. Frost  
Executive Secretary



## JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE

THURSDAY, May 29, 1975

The House was called to order at 1:09 o'clock, P.M., the Speaker in the Chair.  
The prayer was offered by the Chaplain, Rev. Michael S. Galasso of West Hartford.

The following is the prayer:

Let us pray: God of our father, hear your people as we ask your blessing. Much work must be handled in this short period of time that we have left. Give us the strength to complete it well. Amen.

### HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION SUSPENSION OF THE RULES

The following House Joint Resolution was introduced, read, adopted and immediately transmitted to the Senate under a suspension of the rules:

HJR. 240 RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SYMPATHY ON THE DEATH OF RUFUS ROSE

The resolution was explained by Rep. Stevens of the 119th who moved its adoption and further moved that when the vote be taken it be by a moment of silence. The resolution was discussed by Reps. Tanger of the 38th, O'Neill of the 34th, Klebanoff of the 8th, Rapoport of the 73rd, Hendel of the 40th and Stolberg of the 93rd. The resolution was adopted by a standing moment of silence. Rep. Stevens moved for a suspension of the rules for immediate transmittal to the Senate.

On a voice vote the rules were suspended and the resolution was transmitted.

The following is the House Joint Resolution:

Resolved by this Assembly:

WHEREAS, Rufus Rose of 24 Avery Lane, Waterford, died on May 29, 1975, at the age of 70; and

WHEREAS, he was born on March 24, 1904, graduated from Antioch College and was the owner and producer of the Rufus Rose Marionettes since 1933; and

WHEREAS, he was an effective member of the Connecticut General Assembly as the Representative from the 38th District from 1963 to 1975 and was the House Chairman of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and a member of the Joint Standing Committee on Public Health and Safety; and

WHEREAS, he was a tireless fighter for individual rights and the well-being of others as evidenced by his successful championship of the "No Smoking Bill" and the "Teachers Evaluation Bill"; and

WHEREAS, he was an internationally known entertainer, was the creator of Howdy Doody and the producer of many marionette and puppet shows; and

WHEREAS, he was one of the founders of the O'Neill Theatre and taught for many years in the theatre for the deaf.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the members of this assembly unite in expressing our sincere sympathy to the family of former State Representative Rufus Rose; and

# Rufus C. Rose Dies; Famed Puppeteer

NEW LONDON — Rufus C. Rose, famed puppeteer who reshaped Howdy Doody into the character that lifted the spirits of millions of television viewers in the 1950s, died Thursday at the age of 71.

Rose, of Waterford, a puppet master for 47 years, was also a five-term state legislator and an enthusiastic motorcyclist.

Rose joined the Howdy Doody show a year after it began when the original puppeteer was fired. He rebuilt Howdy into the now-familiar form and created dozens of other puppets for the show.

At first he worked the puppets. Then he consulted on scripts and played parts on the show. He ended up in charge of all puppets and puppeteering at NBC and pulled the strings for Howdy until the show left the air in 1960.

While attending Antioch College in Ohio, with plans to become an accountant, he saw the world-famous Sarg Marionettes perform "Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves." This led to his career.

He later joined the Sarg company and worked his way up from property man to working puppeteer. His future wife Margaret was a member of the company.

In 1932, the Rufus Rose Marionettes appeared and performed across the country until World War II when travel restrictions made it necessary for the Roses to return home to Waterford.

Rose spent the war at Electric Boat in Groton helping to build submarines. Then he and his wife went on the road again.

In 1937 he founded the Puppeteers of America. He also produced puppet films with Olga Stevens, including "The Toymaker," which won the endorsement of the United Nations.

He produced the first feature-length puppet film, "Jerry Pulled the Strings."

In 1958 he won the Peabody Award for the outstanding children's TV program, "The Fairy."



1971 Photo

## RUFUS C. ROSE

Howdy and other puppets to work with him when he was in the state legislature, turning the solemn solons into an instant "peanut gallery."

He was more known in the legislature, however, for his strong support of motorcycling.

An enthusiast since his college days, Rose often rode his motorcycle to Hartford for General Assembly sessions, a distance of 50 miles, making it in an hour.

In 1974, the Automobile Club of Hartford urged the General Assembly to censure the then 70-year-old Rose for "encouraging motorcyclists to defy the state's helmet law."

Rose responded that he felt the law invaded the individual's right to make personal decisions.

"When some of these fuddyduddies who don't ride try to tell us how to protect ourselves," Rose said in Phineas T. Blustery tones, "It's a little out of line as far as I'm concerned."

Rose, a Republican, was first elected to the legislature in 1962. He was no newcomer to politics, having been in public service for 25 years. He served three terms in Waterford's Representative Town Meeting and was chairman or a member of five school building committees and served on the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Rose declined to seek reelection last November.

He entered Lawrence and

Deaths

NCHS 5/28/75

# Rufus Rose Succumbs; Created 'Howdy Doody'

NEW LONDON, Conn. (UPI) — Rufus C. Rose, who created the popular Howdy Doody puppet and operated it for a short time on the children's television show, died early today. He was 70.

Rose, who suffered from peritonitis, had been a patient at Lawrence and Memorial Hospital since he was stricken May 20 at his home in Waterford.

A Republican, he was elected to five two-year terms in the Connecticut House of Representatives. He declined to seek reelection last year.

Rose was hired by the National Broadcasting Co. in



He entered Lawrence and Memorial Hospitals in New London May 20 with a strangulated hernia which worsened to peritonitis, an inflammation of the abdominal lining.

He leaves his wife, Mrs. Margaret "Margo" Skewis Rose; three sons, James P. Rose of Yellow Springs, Ohio, Rufus R. Rose of Oak Harbor, Wash., and Christopher S. Rose of Washington, D.C.; two brothers, Chapell Rose and Norman C. Rose, both of Bradenton, Fla.; three sisters, Virginia C. Rose of Waterford, Mrs. Edna C. Nelson of Hemet, Calif., and Mrs. Benjamin Carey of Westwood, N.J., and six grandchildren.

The family is staging a reception in lieu of a funeral Saturday from 1 to 5 p.m. at the Rose home, 24 Avery Lane, Waterford. Cremation will be in New Haven Saturday. Donations may be made to the National Theater Institute of Eugene O'Neill Theater Center, Scholarship Fund, Waterford.

Rose thought part of his puppeting success was due to his own enjoyment of the work, saying, "If the puppeteer is not having fun, his marionettes will immediately transfer this to the audience."

After the Howdy Doody show left the air in 1960, Rose brought the puppets home to Waterford although NBC retained ownership. In 1961, an early morning blaze caused an estimated \$60,000 damage to the Rose studio and home. It originally was feared the entire puppet cast was lost.

However, the next day Rose found Howdy and 11 principal characters from the show virtually unscathed. NBC filed an unsuccessful lawsuit against Rose seeking \$15,000 in damages for the loss and claiming Rose was negligent.

Rose occasionally took

Deaths