

Town of Roque Bluffs

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February 20, 2025

Tiffany Strout
Maine State Representative
12 Anderson Lane
Harrington, ME 04643

Dear Ms. Stout,

The town of Roque Bluffs in Maine strongly supports LD 345 "Resolve, to Rename a Bridge in the Town of Roque Bluffs the Hope Bridge".

Hope Pratt was born in 1943 and married Joel Pratt in 1962. They lived in Pennsylvania before retiring to Roque Bluffs in 1994. Hope was a master gardener, and a meticulous knitter. Gentle and caring, she worked as a hospice social worker in Pennsylvania and volunteered in the same capacity in Maine, where her special gifts helped many people with end-of-life care.

Hope and Joel were key contributing members of the Roque Bluffs Community Center, serving on the board for several years, and raising much needed funds for building improvements. They were long-time participants in town affairs. They were also heavily involved with the Wee Care Baby Center in Machias.

Hope was instrumental in raising the height of the new Johnson Cove bridge during its design phase when she snapped a photograph during a particularly vicious storm showing waves splashing salt water over, and throwing rocks onto, the bridge. The proof convinced a reluctant MDOT to redesign the bridge three feet higher, as it stands today.

The memory of Hope Pratt lives on in the community. Dedication of a bridge in her honor is but a small token of the appreciation of all who love the community of Roque Bluffs.

Signed this 20th day of February, 2025:

Tristen Nelson, Selectman

Philip A. Pinto, Selectman

Ernest Libby, Selectman