

No. R-520. Senate concurrent resolution honoring Joel D. Cook for his four decades of exemplary legal advocacy and administrative leadership in the nonprofit and public sectors.

(S.C.R.45)

By Senators Sirotkin, Ashe, Baruth, Campion, Cummings, Degree, Doyle, Lyons, MacDonald, McCormack, Mullin, Riehle, and Zuckerman,

By Representatives Davis of Washington, Donovan of Burlington, Sharpe of Bristol, Toleno of Brattleboro, Townsend of South Burlington, and Yantachka of Charlotte,

Whereas, Joel Cook has devoted his legal and administrative career to causes in which he passionately believed, and

Whereas, he earned his undergraduate degree at Haverford College, graduate degrees in education at Columbia University's Teachers College, and a law degree from the University of Oregon, and

Whereas, Joel Cook has spent his entire professional career in Vermont starting as a VISTA attorney at Vermont Legal Aid, and

Whereas, at the conclusion of his VISTA-funded position, Joel Cook remained at Vermont Legal Aid as a staff attorney, working on the types of economic-related matters with which he was well acquainted, and

Whereas, Joel Cook's duties at Vermont Legal Aid would subsequently include directing the mental health law project, attorney and paralegal training, and finally the senior citizen law project, and

Whereas, this last role segued nicely into his next position as Director of the Vermont Office on Aging, which eventually led to Governor Kunin's appointing him as Commissioner of Aging and Disabilities, and

Whereas, starting in 1992, Joel Cook's career shifted from advocating for older Vermonters and those with disabilities to seeking the best possible educational opportunities for the State's K-12 students as general counsel for the Vermont-NEA, and

Whereas, in his new job, Joel Cook represented the Vermont-NEA in the court room, at the bargaining table, and in the General Assembly, and he served as in-house counsel for internal operations, and

Whereas, the leadership of Vermont-NEA was so pleased with Joel Cook's performance as general counsel that, in 2000, it promoted him to the role of executive director of the 12,000-member organization, and

Whereas, after serving as a leading public education advocate, Joel Cook is concluding his tenure as the Vermont-NEA's Executive Director, and

Whereas, Joel Cook has brought wise counsel and skilled leadership to all of his legal and administrative positions, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors Joel D. Cook for his four decades of exemplary legal advocacy and administrative leadership in the nonprofit and public sectors, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Joel Cook.