

**No. R-274. House concurrent resolution honoring George Schenk of Warren for his contribution to Vermont's food and business communities.**

(H.C.R.203)

Offered by: Representatives Greshin of Warren, Grad of Moretown, and Jewett of Ripton

Whereas, in his youth, George Schenk watched attentively as his grandmother cooked over a wood fire, and recognized the advantages of this ancient process for baking grain-based food products, and

Whereas, after earning a degree in biology at Lycoming College in Pennsylvania, his life's path eventually led him to Vermont, and

Whereas, the origins of the American Flatbread Company (AFC) date to 1985, when George Schenk constructed a primitive, outdoor wood-fired oven on his property, and two years later, he built a larger one at Tucker Hill Lodge in Fayston, and

Whereas, the mission of AFC "is to provide good flavorful nutritious food that gives both joy and health, and to share this food with others in ways sustainable to all," and

Whereas, in 1990, AFC relocated to Lareau Farm in Waitsfield, and

Whereas, both restaurant and wholesale operations evolved, and AFC restaurants were started in Middlebury and later Burlington, as well as a separate franchising arrangement, the Flatbread Company, based in Amesbury, Massachusetts, and in 2006, AFC assumed ownership of the Inn at Lareau Farm, and

Whereas, a basic principle for AFC is purchasing and using local ingredients, and

Whereas, profit is hardly the sole motivation for George Schenk's business venture as his donation of thousands of flatbreads to the needy and annual benefit bakes for worthy causes attest, and

Whereas, George Schenk founded the Medicine Wheel Project and Organic Food for Public Schools, is an active member of Vermont Businesses for Social Responsibility, and serves on the Board of the Vermont Food Bank, and

Whereas, through his writings and activism, George Schenk promotes and supports increased reliance on local and organic foods, and

Whereas, through his generosity, deep commitment to community, and enduring love of high quality, locally sourced food, George Schenk has become a pillar of the economy and the spirit of the Mad River Valley, and

Whereas, Saturday, June 6, 2015 was the 30th anniversary of AFC, and the founding creative genius, local legend, and special Vermonter George Schenk was honored, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors George Schenk of Warren for his innovative roles in Vermont's food and business communities, and be it further

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