

**No. R-130. Senate concurrent resolution recognizing the political accomplishments of former Governor Howard Dean.**

(S.C.R.16)

By Senators Lyons, Ayer, Bartlett, Brock, Campbell, Carris, Choate, Cummings, Doyle, Flanagan, Hartwell, Illuzzi, Kitchel, Kittell, MacDonald, Mazza, McCormack, Miller, Mullin, Nitka, Racine, Scott, Sears, Shumlin, Snelling, Starr, White,

*Whereas*, Howard Dean, a young medical doctor from Burlington, served as a member of the House of Representatives in the bienniums of 1983–1984 and 1985–1986, and

*Whereas*, in 1986, he won his first race for statewide office as lieutenant governor in which role he presided over the senate from 1987 to 1991, and

*Whereas*, in August 1991, upon the sudden death of Governor Richard Snelling, Lieutenant Governor Dean was thrust into the governorship, and

*Whereas*, Governor Dean steered the state of Vermont through a difficult economic climate and time by following Governor Snelling’s three-year economic recovery plan to its successful conclusion, and

*Whereas*, during his administration, Governor Dean implemented a broad-based program of health insurance for children under 18, and

*Whereas*, another special focus of Governor Dean’s tenure was his effort to expand and strengthen Vermont’s commercial and cultural relations with Canada, especially the province of Quebec, and

*Whereas*, after serving in the governorship for twelve and one-half years, he entered an historic run for the presidency, and

*Whereas*, the Dean for America campaign inaugurated grass roots democracy when Howard Dean reminded Americans that “you have the power to end the senseless war in Iraq and take your government back,” and

*Whereas*, although his quest for the nation’s highest political office was unsuccessful, Howard Dean introduced the use of the Internet as a major campaign tool that President Barack Obama followed and expanded with great success, and

*Whereas*, for the past four years, Howard Dean has served as Chair of the Democratic National Committee and introduced an innovative approach to national politics with his 50-state strategy that deployed Democratic political party organizers in every state, even those that had the most minimal history of voting for Democratic candidates, and

*Whereas*, Howard Dean’s 50-state strategy aided President Barack Obama in the building of a political base that helped him to win the 2008 election, and

*Whereas*, in February 2009, Howard Dean stepped down as Chair of the Democratic National Committee and is looking forward to the next phase in his life’s journey, and *now therefore be it*

***Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:***

That the General Assembly recognizes the significant accomplishments and contributions to the state of Vermont and national politics of former Governor Howard Dean and wishes him well in his future endeavors, *and be it further*

***Resolved:*** That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to President Barack Obama and to Governor Howard Dean.