

No. R-135. House concurrent resolution honoring Olympic runner and model sportsman Andrew Wheating of Norwich.

(H.C.R.87)

Offered by: Representatives Cheney of Norwich, Masland of Thetford, Adams of Hartland, Bohi of Hartford, Clarkson of Woodstock, Clerkin of Hartford, Emmons of Springfield, Martin of Springfield, Mitchell of Barnard, Shand of Weathersfield and Sweaney of Windsor

Offered by: Senators Campbell, McCormack and Nitka

Whereas, the pleasure Andrew Wheating derives from running, a sport in which he excels, has motivated him far more than the accolades of his coaches and the many championships he has won, and

Whereas, rarely does a naturally talented competitive runner with Andrew Wheating's abilities emerge, and

Whereas, fortunately, the persuasive powers of the Kimball Union Academy Soccer Coach Scribner Fauver convinced Andrew Wheating to try out for Kimball Union Academy's cross-country team, and

Whereas, Andrew Wheating's racing strategy of lingering behind and conserving his energy for a carefully calculated winning sprint resulted in two perfect seasons of high school competition in 2004 and 2005, and

Whereas, especially noteworthy among Andrew Wheating's achievements was his capturing two consecutive New England Prep School Track Association individual championships, and

Whereas, his strong and swift performances made him an ideal contender for national competition, and he met this challenge clinching the 2005 USATF National Junior Track & Field Championship in the five-Kilometer event, and

Whereas, after graduating from Kimball Union Academy, Andrew Wheating headed west to the University of Oregon where he has become the first Vermonter ever officially recorded as running a mile in under four minutes, and

Whereas, medium runners on the U.S. Olympic track team usually dedicate years to qualifying for this ultimate athletic competition, but over a three-month period, Andrew Wheating earned the eighth running slot on the squad, and

Whereas, he was the first University of Oregon undergraduate to compete in the Olympics in over three decades, and

Whereas, although Andrew Wheating's first round qualifying time in the 1500 meters competition at the Olympics was mere seconds too short to continue forward, he served as an ideal representative for our state and nation, and

Whereas, Kimball Union Cross Country Coach Buzz Morrison has praised Andrew Wheating as an individual who competes with grace and humility, truly rare attributes among top athletes in any sport, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors Olympic runner and model sportsman Andrew Wheating of Norwich, and be it further

Resolved: That the secretary of state be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Andrew Wheating in Norwich.