

No. R-501. Senate concurrent resolution congratulating Gregory MacDonald on being named the Northeast Kingdom Chamber of Commerce 2010 Citizen of the Year.

(S.C.R.53)

By Senators Kitchel and Choate,

By Representatives Reis of St. Johnsbury, South of St. Johnsbury, Crawford of Burke, Lawrence of Lyndon and Toll of Danville.

Whereas, the Northeast Kingdom Chamber of Commerce annually presents the Citizen of the Year Award to an individual who has improved the quality of life in the Northeast Kingdom in a way that is of enduring value, and

Whereas, recipients of this award have represented diverse fields of endeavor and uniquely contributed to the region's societal well-being, and

Whereas, the 2010 Citizen of the Year honoree is Gregory MacDonald, field service district manager for the Vermont Agency of Human Services, and

Whereas, his correctional policy activities have emphasized compassion whenever possible and have focused on rehabilitation programs that enable those who were formerly incarcerated to lead productive lives upon returning to their communities, and

Whereas, Gregory MacDonald grew up in the Boston area, graduated with a degree in criminal justice from Northeastern University, and is a military veteran who served in Vietnam, and

Whereas, his love of the country and farming, gained while working summers on a relative's Nova Scotia dairy farm, brought him to Vermont where he worked on a friend's dairy farm in East Calais, and

Whereas, learning that a new prison, the Northeast Regional Correctional Facility, was opening in St. Johnsbury, he applied for work and was hired as a temporary correctional officer, and

Whereas, Gregory MacDonald proved well-suited for the field of corrections and was promoted first to the position of case worker, then case worker supervisor, and was later appointed as the district manager for Vermont Probation and Parole, a job that ideally matched his academic and professional background and which he held with distinction for 17 years, and

Whereas, most recently, he has served as the Agency of Human Services' regional field director with supervisory responsibility for all of its departments' and offices' activities in the Northeast Kingdom, and

Whereas, outside his official roles, Gregory MacDonald has been a key volunteer in area human service programs, including serving as a cofounder of the local Drug Assistance Resistance Team (DART), and an early participant of both the Aerie Project (a transitional house for women recovering from substance abuse), and the St. Johnsbury Community Justice Center, and

Whereas, Gregory MacDonald contributed his professional expertise to Kingdom County Production's documentary film "Here Today" which examined heroin addiction in the Northeast Kingdom, and

Whereas, he has belonged to the local chapter of the White Ribbon Campaign, an organization dedicated to eradicating men's violence against women and children, and

Whereas, Gregory MacDonald's exemplary community contributions have extended beyond the human services field as he has been a member and chair of the St. Johnsbury school board, served on the boards of various nonprofit organizations, and coached youth hockey and baseball, and

Whereas, in 2001, he was presented the Domestic Violence Service Award from the Umbrella organization, and he is the 2010 recipient of the Vermont Network Against Domestic Violence & Sexual Abuse's Social Change Award, and

Whereas, the Northeast Kingdom Chamber of Commerce could not have selected a more worthy individual to honor for extraordinary regional community leadership and service, and

Whereas, the award will be presented on May 22, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates Gregory MacDonald on being named the 2010 Northeast Kingdom Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year, *and be it further*

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