

No. R-76. House concurrent resolution congratulating the Manchester Journal on 150 years of journalism excellence.

(H.C.R.39)

Offered by: Representatives Wilson of Manchester, Browning of Arlington, Komline of Dorset, Malcolm of Pawlet and Olsen of Jamaica

Offered by: Senators Hartwell and Sears

Whereas, as the northern shire town for Bennington County, Manchester has long been an important regional civic and commercial center, and

Whereas, a reliable newspaper is an essential adjunct to facilitate the activities that transpire in a community such as Manchester, and

Whereas, since 1861, the Manchester Journal has ably fulfilled this role, chronicling the events of the day, promoting mercantile activity, and serving as a repository for legal notices, and

Whereas, this community news source was started modestly with \$40 that the original publisher, Charles Pierce, borrowed as well as old printing equipment, and

Whereas, the inaugural edition was published on May 28, 1861 under the editorship of H. E. Miner, and

Whereas, during the newspaper's first decade, the editorial leadership was shared among several individuals including some who served and were wounded as Union Army members during the Civil War, and

Whereas, among the early editors was Loveland Munson, who later in life served as Chief Justice of the Vermont Supreme Court, and

Whereas, in 1871, the ownership of the Manchester Journal changed twice, first as Charles Pierce and his brother Everett sold it to Franklin Orvis, who soon sold the newspaper to D. K. Simonds, the publisher until 1905, and

Whereas, Simonds, under whose leadership circulation rose to approximately 3,000, was always kept abreast of town occurrences in his other roles as town clerk and postmaster, and

Whereas, in 1905, a new publisher, Otto Bennett, purchased the Manchester Journal, and, during the course of his time as publisher, he served for a dozen years, from 1920 to 1932, as the member from Manchester in the House of Representatives, and his family's ownership continued through much of the 20th century, and

Whereas, noted Vermont poet and author Walter Hard, Sr., contributed delightful columns that ended in free-style verse, and

Whereas, after 150 years, the Manchester Journal remains a must-read newspaper to learn the latest happenings in Manchester, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the Manchester Journal on 150 years of journalism excellence, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Manchester Journal Managing Editor Andrew McKeever.