

No. R-169. House concurrent resolution congratulating James Kochalka on his designation as the first Vermont cartoonist laureate.

(H.C.R.129)

Offered by: Representatives Martin of Springfield and Emmons of Springfield

Offered by: Senators Campbell, McCormack and Nitka

Whereas, since the inception and subsequent flourishing of the Center for Cartoon Studies in White River Junction, colorful illustrative cartoons have become a respected and sophisticated art form, and

Whereas, the center's publication of graphic novels, staging of exhibitions, and hosting of forums featuring prominent cartoonists, including *Doonesbury* creator Garry Trudeau, have enabled Vermont to become a national mecca for cartooning, and

Whereas, in celebration of cartooning's new place on the state's artistic scene and in recognition of the art form's communicative power, the Center for Cartoon Studies, with the enthusiastic support of the Vermont Arts Council and Governor Peter Shumlin, has designated James Kochalka, a Springfield native, University of Vermont graduate, and highly acclaimed and creative cartoonist, as the first Vermont cartoonist laureate, and

Whereas, for a three-year term, he will characterize life in Vermont as only the cartoonist can, and

Whereas, in a recent edition of his *American Elf* cartoon series, in which James Kochalka humorously depicts his own life, he acknowledged to his thrilled agent the importance of being designated the first Vermont cartoonist

laureate, but then refused to discuss the matter further citing an immediate preoccupation with making grapefruit-peel candy with his sons Eli, 7, and Oliver, 3, and

Whereas, as the creator of many cartoon collections including *Dragon Puncher*, *Johnny Boo*, *Pinky & Stinky*, *Monkey Vs. Robot*, *Squirrelly Gray*, and of course the *American Elf*, he has earned a large following of enthralled fans, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates James Kochalka on his designation as the first Vermont cartoonist laureate, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to James Kochalka and to the Vermont Center for Cartoon Studies.