

No. R-194. Senate concurrent resolution honoring John O'Kane for his career accomplishments at IBM and for his outstanding community service.

(S.C.R.14)

By Senators Illuzzi, Ashe, Doyle and Galbraith,

Whereas, in 1964, John O'Kane began working for the IBM Corporation in the mailroom of its New York offices, and subsequently, while simultaneously working at IBM, he earned bachelor's degrees in industrial management and economics and an MBA from the Wharton School of Economics at the University of Pennsylvania, and

Whereas, at IBM, John O'Kane worked extensively in the human resources arena and in 1979 became manager of human resources administration at IBM in Vermont, and

Whereas, in 1999, John O'Kane was appointed manager of government relations for IBM Burlington, a position that includes responsibility for IBM's liaison with government, business, and community organizations, and

Whereas, for the last 12 years and with far greater regularity than his IBM predecessors, John O'Kane testified before legislative committees and met regularly with the governor and legislative leaders to advocate for IBM's public policy positions, including those related to kindergarten through graduate school education, affordable housing, the circumferential highway, health care, workforce development, energy, and information technology, and he has always remained respectful regardless of disagreements, and

Whereas, both Governors Dean and Douglas appointed John O'Kane to workforce training and economic development advisory positions, and

Whereas, John O'Kane has served on the boards and executive committees of both the Lake Champlain Chamber of Commerce and the Vermont Chamber of Commerce, and he has also worked with other trade associations, always seeking consensus on issues of importance to IBM, and

Whereas, he worked with the Vermont congressional delegation to obtain for IBM Burlington designation as a Trusted Foundry, a special federal program to ensure that critical defense programs have access to domestically produced leading-edge integrated circuits, and

Whereas, John O'Kane is highly respected within IBM nationally for his expertise in government relations, marketing, and management matters, and

Whereas, in the cultural sphere, the Vermont Symphony Orchestra benefited from his sage advice as treasurer and vice president, and

Whereas, when not involved in professional activities, John O'Kane and his wife, Suzy, are avid golfers, and

Whereas, John O'Kane is now preparing to conclude his distinguished 47-year career at IBM and is planning to move to Seattle, Washington, to be close to family members, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honor John O’Kane for his career accomplishments at IBM and for his outstanding public service to the greater community we call Vermont, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to John O’Kane at IBM Burlington.