

No. R-252. House concurrent resolution congratulating Vermont State Archivist Gregory Sanford on winning the Matthew Lyon Award.

(H.C.R.85)

Offered by: Committee on Government Operations

Whereas, Matthew Lyon was a United States congressman from Vermont when in 1798, he was jailed in Vergennes for violating the Alien and Sedition Act for writing a letter to a newspaper criticizing President John Adams, and

Whereas, despite his being incarcerated, the voters reelected him to Congress, recognizing his stalwart belief in the First Amendment, and

Whereas, the Vermont Press Association (VPA) annually presents the Matthew Lyon Award to an individual who has been a contemporary First Amendment champion, and

Whereas, the most recent Matthew Lyon Award winner is Vermont State Archivist Gregory (Greg) Sanford who was recognized for his lifetime commitment to the First Amendment, and

Whereas, Gregory Sanford is a graduate of Washington College in Chestertown, Maryland and earned his master's degree in history from the University of Vermont, and

Whereas, prior to being appointed the Vermont State Archivist in 1982, he served as assistant director of the George D. Aiken Oral History project at the University of Vermont and worked at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Institute Archives, and

Whereas, under his expert leadership, the Vermont State Archives has evolved into a modern state archival facility with legal responsibility for the long-term cataloguing, organizing, and preservation of the state's records, and

Whereas, during his nearly three decades as Vermont State Archivist, Greg Sanford has been vigilant in advocating for more effective public records laws that are written with clarity and facilitate the maximum possible public access to state records, and

Whereas, the VPA President Bethany Dunbar has described Greg Sanford as "one of the beacons in state government that completely understands the need and the importance of keeping and maintaining public records," and

Whereas, Greg Sanford is unquestionably a most deserving and worthy recipient of this honor, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates Vermont State Archivist Gregory Sanford on winning the Matthew Lyon Award, and be it further

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