

No. R-298. Senate concurrent resolution congratulating Rick Cochran of Walden on being named the Vermont and National Small Business Person of the Year.

(S.C.R.33)

By Senators Kitchel and Benning,

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

Whereas, Rick Cochran's development of Mobile Medical International Corporation (MMIC) into a thriving manufacturer of remote use health care facilities and mobile surgery units is a business saga of entrepreneurial foresight and perseverance, and

Whereas, in 1994, in his home basement in Walden, he formed MMIC with the goal of offering advanced medical care at underserved locations both in the United States and internationally, and by 1996, MMIC was located in a 1,500-square-foot space in St. Johnsbury, and

Whereas, MMIC created a state-of-the-art mobile breast care center for the Indian Health Services Hospital in Tuba City, Arizona, and

Whereas, unfortunately, MMIC confronted major financial hurdles that threatened the company's existence, but Rick Cochran's employees remained on the job without compensation, and once the company's financial situation brightened, he reimbursed them for their commitment and loyalty, and

Whereas, the recipient of \$2 million plus United States Small Business Administration (SBA) loans, MMIC has repaid them in full, and

Whereas, MMIC has blossomed into a 54-employee operation occupying 66,000 square feet of space in St. Johnsbury, and in 2010, gross revenue reached \$14 million and net profits rose to \$1,679,123.00, and

Whereas, at great personal risk, Rick Cochran traveled to Nassiriya, Iraq to offer personal support for Operation Smile Train in which physicians volunteered to perform cleft palate surgery on Iraqi youngsters, and

Whereas, Rick Cochran and MMIC have supported many worthy charitable and civic activities, and

Whereas, in recognition of his outstanding entrepreneurship and community service, the SBA has honored Rick Cochran as the 2011 Vermont Small Business Person of the Year, and he was subsequently chosen as the National Small Business Person of the Year, a very special honor for Vermont and him, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates Rick Cochran of Walden on being named the Vermont and National Small Business Person of the Year, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Rick Cochran and to the Mobile Medical International Corporation in St. Johnsbury.