

No. R-379. Senate concurrent resolution congratulating Ross Connelly and Thomas F. Kearney on their induction into the New England Newspaper Hall of Fame.

(S.C.R.40)

By Senators Kitchel, Benning and Westman,

By Representatives Leriche of Hardwick, Scheuermann of Stowe, Lenex of Shelburne, Martin of Wolcott, Peltz of Woodbury, Smith of Morristown, Strong of Albany, Toll of Danville, Young of Glover, Stevens of Waterbury Village, and Ellis of Waterbury,

Whereas, one of the highest forms of recognition that can be bestowed on a journalist is induction into the New England Newspaper Hall of Fame, and in 2012, two Vermont journalists were so honored, and

Whereas, Ross Connelly, the publisher and editor of the *Hardwick Gazette*, began his journalism career as a writer for the New England Patriots, proceeded to the *Reading (Massachusetts) Daily Times and Chronicle* where he was a sports reporter, wrote a column at the *Holyoke Transcript-Telegram*, and was editor of the *Cape Cod Chronicle*, and

Whereas, in 1986, he and his late wife, Susan Jarzyna, purchased the *Hardwick Gazette* and served as copublishers, and

Whereas, in his acceptance remarks, Ross Connelly paid tribute to his wife, who died in September 2011 after a 10-year fight with cancer and who had worked until two weeks before her death, and

Whereas, Ross Connelly served as president of the Vermont Press Association and the former New England Press Association and is founding chair of the Vermont Coalition for Open Government, and

Whereas, Thomas F. Kearney spent 36 years at the *Keene* (New Hampshire) *Sentinel* where his first assignment was as a city hall reporter before rising through the ranks, spending 20 years as the executive editor of the *Sentinel* before becoming the managing editor of the *Stowe Reporter* in 2005, and

Whereas, throughout his professional life as a reporter and editor, Thomas F. Kearney has been an ardent defender of the First Amendment and a free press, and his work for this valiant cause has earned him the Yankee Quill Award and the Nackey S. Loeb First Amendment Award, and

Whereas, Thomas F. Kearney has a well deserved reputation as a great mentor for young journalists, as he patiently instructs them in mastering the art as well as the techniques of journalism, and aspiring journalists are known to seek the opportunity to polish their craft under his watchful guidance, and

Whereas, both of these gentlemen are worthy additions to the roster of the New England Newspaper Hall of Fame, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates Ross Connelly and Thomas F. Kearney on their induction into the New England Newspaper Hall of Fame, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Ross Connelly and Thomas F. Kearney.