

**No. R-524. House concurrent resolution honoring Thomas Cheney for his stellar service as aide to the speaker of the house of representatives.**

(H.C.R.408)

Offered by: All Members of the House

Whereas, since the spring of 2009, Tom Cheney of Milton, who was elected as one of his hometown's youngest justices of the peace, has served as the extremely cheerful, competent, and dedicated staff aide to Speaker Shap Smith, and

Whereas, a 2009 graduate of the University of Vermont, Tom Cheney arrived in the speaker's office by way of the other body, where as a college senior, he interned for then-President Pro Tempore Peter Shumlin before wisely recognizing the hierarchical importance of the people's house, and

Whereas, as a former member of the UVM cross country squad, Tom Cheney's tireless energy and fast pace always proved useful, and

Whereas, although his primary responsibility was to the speaker, Tom Cheney earned the respect and appreciation of all members of the house, and

Whereas, Tom Cheney became a trusted advisor to the speaker and participated in many leadership and policy meetings, and

Whereas, members knew when Tom Cheney reported the speaker's position on a question of policy or legislative process that he spoke authoritatively, and

Whereas, Tom Cheney's mastery of the written word enabled him to craft concise and informative press releases with accuracy, clarity, and swiftness,

proving an invaluable resource for disseminating the speaker's positions on policy issues or conveying other important information to the public, and

Whereas, he maintained cordial, cooperative, and effective working relationships with the staffs of the house clerk, the president pro tempore, the senate secretary, the legislative council, the joint fiscal office, and the sergeant at arms, and

Whereas, despite the demanding and hectic schedule required to perform his myriad duties, both anticipated and unexpected, Thomas Cheney found the time to pursue his passion of running, and

Whereas, after three enormously successful years serving Speaker Shap Smith, Tom Cheney has decided to relocate his legislative career to our nation's capital, where he will become a legislative assistant to U.S. Representative Peter Welch, and

Whereas, he will leave Montpelier with many fond memories of his staff service under the golden dome, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors Thomas Cheney for his stellar work as aide to the speaker of the house of representatives and wishes him the best of luck in his new career venture, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Thomas Cheney.