

No. R-296. Senate concurrent resolution congratulating the Reverend Jay Sprout on being named the Northeast Kingdom Chamber of Commerce's 2013 Citizen of the Year.

(S.C.R.41)

By Senators Kitchel and Benning,

By Representatives Fay of St. Johnsbury, Feltus of Lyndon, Larocque of Barnet, Lawrence of Lyndon, Quimby of Concord, South of St. Johnsbury, and Toll of Danville,

Whereas, annually, the Northeast Kingdom Chamber of Commerce honors a local resident with its Citizen of the Year Award, and

Whereas, Rev. Jay Sprout, a man whose life transcends the traditional boundaries of the religious sphere, is the 2013 recipient of this award, and

Whereas, he graduated from Bethany College in West Virginia and earned a Master of Divinity degree from Yale Divinity School, and

Whereas, after graduating from Yale, Rev. Jay Sprout worked on Maine's Monhegan Island in a one-room schoolhouse and led Sunday worship, and

Whereas, after serving congregations in southern Vermont, he accepted the call to lead the North Congregational Church in St. Johnsbury, and

Whereas, during over 30 years in St. Johnsbury, he has opened his church as a meeting place for public discussions and as a site for celebrations and festivals, and

Whereas, Rev. Jay Sprout broadened his spiritual focus to include serving as the area's human services secretary for the Salvation Army and as a founding member and president of the interfaith Kingdom Community Services, and

Whereas, his community spirit and passion for the arts culminated in his leadership role with the St. Johnsbury First Night, and

Whereas, an accomplished chorister, Rev. Jay Sprout has sung with his church's choir, the North Country Chorus, and the Pumpkin Hill Singers, and has sung in Italy with Village Harmony, and

Whereas, he has appeared in several St. Johnsbury Players' productions, and

Whereas, Rev. Jay Sprout retired from the pulpit in July 2013, and the joint award and retirement dinner held in his honor served as a wonderful tribute to this beloved and respected community leader, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the Reverend Jay Sprout on being named the Northeast Kingdom Chamber of Commerce's 2013 Citizen of the Year, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Rev. Jay Sprout.