

No. R-197. Senate concurrent resolution honoring Giovanna Peebles on her career as Vermont's first State Archaeologist.

(S.C.R.20)

By Senators Doyle and Cummings,

By Representative Deen of Westminster,

Whereas, Webster's II New Collegiate Dictionary defines archaeology as "the study of past human life and culture by the examination of material remains . . .," and

Whereas, in the 1970s, the federal government mandated that every state establish an historic preservation office and hire a state archaeologist, and

Whereas, in 1976, Vermont hired 24-year-old Giovanna Peebles as its first State Archaeologist, and

Whereas, Giovanna Peebles academic preparation included two anthropology degrees, a bachelor's from Cornell University, and a master's from Idaho State University, and

Whereas, she coordinated all of the State's archaeology programs, but her passion was "to spread the gospel of archeology . . . to help people understand the importance of history," and

Whereas, an especially enjoyable role for Giovanna Peebles was teaching young students visiting archaeological sites, and

Whereas, at the start of her tenure, there were approximately 500 identified archaeological sites in Vermont, and through her initiative, the number now exceeds 6,000, and

Whereas, a special personal achievement was the establishment of the Vermont Archaeology Heritage Center now located at the Vermont History Center in Barre, and

Whereas, Giovanna Peebles' career included service as Vermont's Historic Preservation Officer, and

Whereas, Giovanna Peebles took advantage of technological advances, establishing a Vermont Archaeology Month Facebook page and a prototype Internet-based Vermont archaeology museum that is the subject of the doctoral dissertation she is completing at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and

Whereas, in 2014, Giovanna Peebles concluded her 38-year career as Vermont's State Archaeologist, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors Giovanna Peebles on her career as Vermont's first State Archaeologist, *and be it further*

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