

No. R-392. House concurrent resolution honoring Donald and Allison Hooper on their special agricultural, civic, educational, and entrepreneurial contributions to Vermont.

(H.C.R.303)

Offered by: Representatives French of Randolph, Ryerson of Randolph, Cole of Burlington, Connor of Fairfield, Copeland-Hanzas of Bradford, Davis of Washington, Emmons of Springfield, Evans of Essex, Haas of Rochester, Head of South Burlington, Krowinski of Burlington, Lenex of Shelburne, O'Sullivan of Burlington, Sheldon of Middlebury, Sullivan of Burlington, Sweaney of Windsor, Townsend of South Burlington, and Webb of Shelburne

Offered by: Senator MacDonald

Whereas, Don Hooper earned his bachelor's degree at Harvard College and, being adventurous, then headed to Botswana where for three years he served as a teaching Peace Corps volunteer known as Mothusi or helper, and

Whereas, after earning a master's degree in education at Harvard, Don Hooper moved permanently to Vermont and assumed an administrative position at the Community College of Vermont, and

Whereas, in 1974, he purchased a 62-acre farm in Brookfield, milked goats, and raised a variety of animals, but he eventually took a "real job" on the staff of the Vermont Natural Resources Council (1979–1984), and

Whereas, in 1984, Allison Hooper—Don's wife; the mother of their three sons, Miles and twins Sam and Jay; and grandmother of Ockie—started the Vermont Butter and Cheese Company (now Vermont Creamery), a premier Vermont company that has produced 15 award-winning specialty cheeses, and

Whereas, in 2013, with support from agricultural-friendly investors and foundations, Vermont Creamery purchased The Ayers Brook Goat Dairy in Randolph as a source for locally produced goat milk, and

Whereas, for four terms (1985–1993), Don Hooper served in the House of Representatives as the member from Brookfield, sat on the Committee on Ways and Means, was a leader in the enactment of legislation establishing the Housing and Conservation Trust Fund and Act 200, fought in the successful effort to divest State pension funds of businesses operating in the then apartheid nation of South Africa, and served as chair of the Government Operations Committee that skillfully negotiated the reapportionment process, and

Whereas, during Don Hooper's tenure as Secretary of State (1993–1995), he is proud of his creation of the Vermont Commission for Democracy and the Barriers and Reforms Task Force, and

Whereas, from 1998 to 2015, Don Hooper served as the National Wildlife Federation's Northeast Regional Representative, working tirelessly on important wildlife preservation matters, and he is now serving on the boards of VTDigger and the Harvard-Radcliffe Club of Vermont, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors Donald and Allison Hooper on their special agricultural, civic, educational, and entrepreneurial roles in Vermont, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Don and Allison Hooper in Brookfield.