

No. R-452. House concurrent resolution honoring James Harrison of Chittenden for his exemplary leadership of the Vermont Retail & Grocers Association.

(H.C.R.375)

Offered by: All Members of the House

Whereas, Jim Harrison began working in the grocery business as a high school student, earning a degree in business and food marketing at Cornell University, and

Whereas, his first grocery store managerial position was for Martin's, which became a Hannaford Supermarket, and

Whereas, in 1987, he moved to Vermont to become the Vermont Grocers Association (VGA) President, and

Whereas, Jim Harrison established a presence in the State House, earning the name "The Hammer" for his tenacity and passion for advocating on retail, food, and business issues, including the effective use of props, and

Whereas, in 1999, after the Vermont Petroleum Association (VPA) disassociated from a national organization, Jim Harrison was instrumental in bringing the VPA into the VGA organizational family, and

Whereas, in 2011, Jim Harrison relocated the VGA's offices to Montpelier in order to be closer to the State House, and

Whereas, in 2013, he orchestrated the successful merger of the Vermont Retail Association into the VGA, creating a solid association now known as the Vermont Retail & Grocers Association (VRGA), and

Whereas, recognizing that general and country stores are a key component of Vermont grocery and general retailing, Jim Harrison's leadership has centered on the premise that the association is only as strong as its smallest member, and

Whereas, Jim Harrison transformed the association's scholarship golf outing into a not-to-be-missed business and recreational event, and

Whereas, Jim Harrison is nationally known as an expert on the scope of Vermont laws and rules affecting grocers and other retailers, and

Whereas, he has visited regularly with VRGA members statewide, and

Whereas, after 28 years of distinguished service as president of the VGA/VRGA, Jim Harrison will retire on December 31, 2016 and hopes to spend quality time with his children, Ben and Robin, and grandchildren, Luke and Graham, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors James Harrison of Chittenden for his exemplary leadership of the Vermont Retail & Grocers Association, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Jim Harrison and to the Vermont Retail & Grocers Association.