

No. R-453. House concurrent resolution honoring Gary Rutkowski for his 40 years of outstanding editorial leadership at the *St. Albans Messenger*.

(H.C.R.376)

Offered by: Representatives Keenan of St. Albans City, Dickinson of St. Albans Town, Parent of St. Albans Town, Beyor of Highgate, Branagan of Georgia, Connor of Fairfield, Fiske of Enosburgh, Gamache of Swanton, Murphy of Fairfax, Pearce of Richford, and Savage of Swanton

Offered by: Senator Degree

Whereas, Gary Rutkowski first manifested his journalistic acumen as editor of the Stevens Point Area Senior High School *Mirror*, and

Whereas, he reaffirmed his affinity for overseeing a news operation at the University of Wisconsin–Stevens Point (UW–SP) as editor of the *Pointer*, and

Whereas, in 1974, having graduated from UW–SP, Gary Rutkowski and his wife, Cindy, headed for Vermont, where he accepted a position with the Vermont Publishing Company, the parent company of the *St. Albans Messenger*, with assignments at its sister papers the *Vermont Sunday News* and the *Colchester-Winooski News*, and

Whereas, the couple first envisioned staying of only two or three years, but their life path had led them home, and

Whereas, in 1975, the Vermont Publishing Company closed both the *Vermont Sunday News* and the *Colchester-Winooski News*, but fortunately Gary Rutkowski's future with the company was hardly over as he was offered a reporter's position at the *St. Albans Messenger*, and

Whereas, Gary Rutkowski's work in St. Albans impressed his supervisors, and just a year later, in 1976, he was named the *Messenger's* executive editor, a role that continued unabated for the next four decades, and

Whereas, in 1981, Emerson Lynn purchased the Vermont Publishing Company, and recognizing Gary Rutkowski's superb editorial leadership, retained him as the *Messenger's* editor, and

Whereas, during Gary Rutkowski's 40-year leadership at the *Messenger*, the paper won many journalism honors, including three that were awarded personally to its respected editor, epitomizing his strong belief in the local ownership of newspapers, and

Whereas, on March 30, 2016, Gary Rutkowski put the *St. Albans Messenger* to bed for his final time, concluding a career that has earned its editor great esteem in the community and from its publisher, Emerson Lynn, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors Gary Rutkowski for his 40 years of outstanding editorial leadership at the *St. Albans Messenger*, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Gary Rutkowski and to the *St. Albans Messenger*.