

No. R-506. House concurrent resolution congratulating James Messier on his receipt of the National FFA VIP Award.

(H.C.R.352)

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

Offered by: Senator Degree

Whereas, FFA (formerly known as Future Farmers of America) is a premier national educational organization that promotes the leadership growth potential of students through agricultural education, and

Whereas, James Messier is a highly respected agribusiness teacher at Missisquoi Valley Union High School, who has compiled an amazing 50-year record of teaching excellence, and

Whereas, at Missisquoi, he supervises the school's barn that enables students to participate in the real-life agricultural experience of raising and being responsible for the care of animals, and

Whereas, aside from his academic duties, James Messier, along with his wife, Ronna, manages a horse breeding program, recently featured in *Vermont Fences*, the magazine of the Vermont Farm Bureau, and

Whereas, FFA grants Honorary American FFA Degree Teacher recognition to teachers who have completed a minimum of ten years' teaching experience and "have created high-quality agricultural education programs which inspire and motivate their students to strive for success," and

Whereas, the crème de la crème of these outstanding Honorary American FFA Degree Teachers become eligible for one of FFA's top honors, the National FFA VIP Award, and

Whereas, State FFA Associations nominate candidates for this prestigious professional award, and the nominees must have completed many years of dedicated service to FFA and agricultural education on the national level, and

Whereas, the Vermont FFA nominated James Messier for this award, and the national panel assessing nominees agreed with its Vermont colleagues' nomination, and

Whereas, at its 2015 national convention, held in Louisville, Kentucky, the FFA presented James Messier this prestigious accolade, and

Whereas, James Messier is a truly remarkable teacher and member of Vermont's agricultural community, whose receipt of the coveted National FFA VIP Award is a richly deserved honor, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates James Messier on his receipt of the National FFA VIP Award, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to James Messier and to the Vermont FFA.