

**No. R-146. House concurrent resolution honoring John Kerrigan on his exemplary high school coaching and teaching career at Harwood Union High School.**

(H.C.R.110)

Offered by: Representatives Stevens of Waterbury, Ellis of Waterbury, Grad of Moretown, and Greshin of Warren

Offered by: Senators Cummings, Doyle, and Pollina

Whereas, John Kerrigan grew up in New York State and began his biology teaching career in a challenging high school in southern New Jersey, and

Whereas, seeking a more agreeable academic environment, he relocated to Harwood Union High School, and

Whereas, in 1979, during his second year on the Harwood faculty, John Kerrigan took the reins of the boys' and girls' cross country teams, and

Whereas, as a former high school runner who overcame a severe muscular illness and returned to his former speed, John Kerrigan possessed a unique ability to empathize with young athletes, and

Whereas, in the decades that followed, John Kerrigan placed a strong emphasis on athletic participants' sportsmanship and execution, and

Whereas, John Kerrigan considered every student on a team he coached to be important, and

Whereas, along Harwood's cross country trail system, John Kerrigan posted a sign stating "Every time I run, I go to war" as a slogan to motivate the runners, and

Whereas, during the later years of his coaching career, John Kerrigan kept pace with his runners on a mountain bike he constructed with the assistance of parents, students, and community members, and

Whereas, John Kerrigan found the bicycle improved his coaching skills and enabled him both to keep up with his runners and to prevent them from pacing themselves too quickly during practice runs, and

Whereas, aside from coaching cross country, John Kerrigan also coached Nordic skiing and long distance track running, and

Whereas, in the fall of 2014, the Harwood girls' and boys' cross country teams captured their respective Division II titles, giving coach Kerrigan his 39th and 40th State championships in his multiple-sport coaching career, and

Whereas, in June 2015, after 41 years, John Kerrigan will conclude his respected role as a classroom teacher, but plans to continue as a great athletic coach, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors John Kerrigan on his exemplary coaching and teaching career at Harwood Union High School, and be it further

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