

No. R-316. House concurrent resolution honoring Rip Jackson on his outstanding service as minister of music at Grace Congregational Church in Rutland.

(H.C.R.239)

Offered by: Representatives Russell of Rutland City, Burditt of West Rutland, Canfield of Fair Haven, Carr of Brandon, Chesnut-Tangerman of Middletown Springs, Cupoli of Rutland City, Eastman of Orwell, Fagan of Rutland City, Gage of Rutland City, Helm of Fair Haven, McCoy of Poultney, Potter of Clarendon, Shaw of Pittsford, and Terenzini of Rutland Town

Offered by: Senator Flory

Whereas, as an Atlanta, Georgia high school student, Rip Jackson immersed himself in the performing arts, focusing on dance and choreography, and

Whereas, at the University of Florida, his artistic attention focused on music history and keyboard performance, including piano, harpsichord, and organ, and

Whereas, after his college graduation, he earned a master's degree at Emory University, pursued doctoral studies at Case Western Reserve University, and studied with the Baroque music specialist and famed English conductor Christopher Hogwood, and

Whereas, for the past 15 years, as minister of music, Rip Jackson infused a joyful spirit into life at Grace Congregational Church in Rutland, and

Whereas, he conducted annual memorable performances of the Christmas portion of Handel's Messiah that Rutlanders anticipated eagerly each year, and

Whereas, an unusual aspect of Rip Jackson's musical ministry was the staging of musical theater productions at Rutland's Paramount Theater, ranging from Miss Saigon to Leonard Bernstein's MASS: A Theatre Piece for Singers, Players and Dancers, and

Whereas, in these community productions, Rip Jackson inspired professional and amateur musicians to blend and maximize their talents, and

Whereas, in the summer of 2015, Rip Jackson and Grace Congregational Church's Rutland Area Choir presented a concert of British and American music, featuring works that were later sung on the choir's European tour, and

Whereas, regrettably for musical life in Rutland, these 2015 musical events concluded Rip Jackson's role as minister of music at Grace Congregational Church as he is now the new music director at the First Parish Church in Lexington, Massachusetts, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors Rip Jackson on his outstanding service as minister of music at Grace Congregational Church in Rutland and extends best wishes for every success in his new musical home at the First Parish Church in Lexington, Massachusetts, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Rip Jackson at the First Parish Church in Lexington, Massachusetts and to Grace Congregational Church in Rutland.