

No. R-328. House concurrent resolution honoring former Juvenile Defender Robert Sheil for his exemplary public service.

(H.C.R.245)

Offered by: Representatives Jewett of Ripton, Burditt of West Rutland, Conquest of Newbury, Frank of Underhill, Grad of Moretown, LaLonde of South Burlington, Martel of Waterford, Nuovo of Middlebury, Rachelson of Burlington, Strong of Albany, and Viens of Newport City

Whereas, all Vermonters accused of illegal conduct, including juveniles whose families cannot afford private counsel, are entitled to a complete and vigorous defense in court, and

Whereas, in court, the Juvenile Division of the Office of the Defender General represents juveniles in the custody of the Department for Children and Families, and

Whereas, for many years, the senior Juvenile Defender and supervising attorney for the Division was Bob Sheil, an attorney devoted to assuring that juveniles accused of offenses receive fair treatment in the courtroom, and

Whereas, Bob Sheil was a member of the third class to graduate from Vermont Law School, and

Whereas, after graduation, he worked as a private practitioner and served briefly in the Office of the Washington County State's Attorney, and

Whereas, Bob Sheil soon realized juvenile defense work was his true calling, and in 1988, he assumed the post of Juvenile Defender, a role he performed admirably, and

Whereas, he combined a solid legal knowledge and a sense of compassion when defending youngsters in court, and

Whereas, Bob Sheil brought his courtroom expertise and broad familiarity with juvenile justice issues to many professional committees, including service on the Board of the New England Juvenile Defender Center, and

Whereas, his concern for the well-being of children, especially those living with difficult economic or family conditions, prompted his membership on the Board of Voices for Vermont's Children, where he continues to serve, and

Whereas, after 27 years as Vermont's esteemed Juvenile Defender, Bob Sheil has concluded his legal career in the Office of the Defender General, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors former Juvenile Defender Robert Sheil for his exemplary public service, and be it further

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