

State of Vermont House of Representatives



Montpelier, Vermont

Concurrent House Resolution

H.C.R. 394

House concurrent resolution honoring Allen Gilbert in recognition of his notable career roles in journalism, education, public service, and civil liberties advocacy

Offered by: All Members of the House

Offered by: Senators Ashe, Ayer, Balint, Baruth, Benning, Bray, Campbell, Campion, Collamore, Cummings, Degree, Doyle, Flory, Kitchel, Lyons, MacDonald, Mazza, McCormack, Mullin, Nitka, Pollina, Riehle, Rodgers, Sears, Sirotkin, Starr, Westman, White, and Zuckerman

Whereas, as an astute journalist, engaging educator, thoughtful elected local school board chair, and for the past 12 years, as the articulate and effective executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Vermont (ACLU-VT), Allen Gilbert has been at the forefront of civic life in the Green Mountain State, and

Whereas, he earned a bachelor's degree in history at Harvard College and a master's in education at the College of William and Mary, and

Whereas, Allen Gilbert became a *Rutland Herald* reporter, progressing to the position of city editor and subsequently assistant editor of the *Sunday Herald-Times Argus*, and in later years, he offered Vermont Public Radio commentaries, and

Whereas, he taught writing at several Vermont colleges and served as a cultural ambassador, teaching American studies at a German university, and

Whereas, Allen Gilbert was a principal in PressKit, a Montpelier communications and public policy research firm, and

Whereas, while chair of the Worcester School Board, it joined the ACLU-VT lawsuit that led to the *Brigham* decision mandating equal educational opportunity for all Vermont K-12 students, and

Whereas, this legal collaboration served as the springboard to ACLU-VT's appointing him as its executive director in 2004 and was the start of an exciting and personally satisfying 12-year tenure, and

Whereas, Allen Gilbert has become a familiar figure at the State House, advocating before legislative committees on behalf of the fundamental rights and liberties of Vermonters, and he has participated in numerous legal actions and spoken at schools and other forums, and

Whereas, in 2012, the Vermont Press Association presented Allen Gilbert the Matthew Lyon Award in recognition of his commitment to the First Amendment and for his work on public records legislation, and

Whereas, in 2016, Allen Gilbert is concluding his ACLU-VT leadership role, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors Allen Gilbert in recognition of his notable career roles in journalism, education, public service, and civil liberties advocacy, and be it further

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