

**No. R-189. House concurrent resolution honoring Tom Connor for his dynamic educational leadership and as director of the Journey East curriculum at Leland & Gray Middle and High School.**

(H.C.R.151)

Offered by: Representatives Olsen of Londonderry, Long of Newfane, and Partridge of Windham

Offered by: Senators Balint and White

Whereas, until his third and final retirement in 2016, Tom Connor's involvement in public education was broad in scope, entailing professional experiences that few of his peers might ever envision, and

Whereas, he graduated from Mount Saint Joseph Academy in Rutland, the University of Vermont, and initially taught at the former Newbury High School and Black River Academy in Ludlow, and

Whereas, in 1970, he earned a master's degree from the Antioch University campus in Putney, and a field project at Leland & Gray Seminary (now Middle and High School) in Townshend resulted in a job offer, and

Whereas, Tom Connor taught a catalog's worth of traditional social studies courses, coached varsity baseball and girls' basketball teams to divisional finals, and chaired the Jamaica School Board, and

Whereas, Tom Connor's true legacy to public education in Vermont is Leland & Gray's Journey East curriculum, a unique Asian Studies intercultural exchange program conducted in association with the Asian Studies Outreach Program at the University of Vermont (UVM), and with generous financial support from the Freeman Foundation, and

Whereas, the genesis of Journey East was a UVM teachers' recertification trip Tom Connor took to China and a subsequent excursion that he and then Windham Central Supervisory Union Superintendent Holden Waterman co-led, and

Whereas, over 300 Leland & Gray students, teachers, and community members have traveled to China, and an approximately similar number of Chinese and Mongolian nonEnglish-speaking college students have visited Vermont's West River Valley, and

Whereas, Tom Connor, who also directed the Governor's Institute on Asian Cultures, is the recipient of numerous honors from the University of Vermont recognizing his leadership in secondary school Asian studies, including a Fulbright Scholarship that facilitated his studying in Japan, and an honorary professorship granted him in 2016 from the Art College of Inner Mongolia University, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors Tom Connor for his dynamic leadership as an educator and as director of the Journey East curriculum at Leland & Gray Middle and High School, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Tom Connor