

No. R-275. Senate concurrent resolution honoring Edward Knox LeClair for his outstanding service as Executive Director of Circus Smirkus.

(S.C.R.20)

By Senators Rodgers and Starr,

By Representatives Strong of Albany and Young of Glover

Whereas, since 2003, Ed LeClair, a graduate of the University of Arkansas and of the Amos Tuck School of Business Administration of Dartmouth College, and expert Taiko drummer, has served as the highly respected executive director of Circus Smirkus, and

Whereas, when Ed LeClair arrived, Circus Smirkus was confronting a difficult financial situation, and drawing on his nonprofit performing arts managerial expertise, he restored the organization to solid fiscal health, and

Whereas, during his tenure, the Circus Smirkus summer camp enabled over 8,000 youngsters to experience the joys and challenges of circus life, and

Whereas, the Smirkus Residency program visits hundreds of schools, teaching circus arts skills and their applicability to daily life, and

Whereas, in recent years, Circus Smirkus has been featured on PBS, *The Martha Stewart Show*, *Fletch*, *America's Got Talent*, and at the Toronto Film Festival, and

Whereas, Ed LeClair has continued the Circus Smirkus tradition of international cultural exchanges through partnerships with circuses in Colombia, Cuba, Ethiopia, France, and Mongolia, and the organization participated in the 2017 Smithsonian Folklife Festival in Washington, D.C., and

Whereas, his leadership has included: the reorganization of the Ringmaster Residency program; the purchase, historic restoration, and energy-efficiency upgrading of the organization's World Headquarters in Greensboro; and the opening of a new summer camp, also in Greensboro, culminating a \$3 million fundraising campaign, and

Whereas, he represented Circus Smirkus both nationally and internationally, has been an active member of the Vermont Creative Economy NEK Leadership Team, and served as a board member of the Circus Now trade association, and,

Whereas, Ed LeClair is concluding his innovative leadership tenure at Circus Smirkus, and he and his wife, Beth Comolli, are looking forward to a new chapter in their lives, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors Edward Knox LeClair for his outstanding service as Executive Director of Circus Smirkus, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Ed LeClair and to Circus Smirkus.