

State of Vermont House of Representatives



Montpelier, Vermont

Concurrent House Resolution

H.C.R. 350

House concurrent resolution honoring Peter Gilbert for his outstanding leadership of the Vermont Humanities Council

Offered by: Representatives Kitzmiller of Montpelier, Hooper of Montpelier, Ancel of Calais, Botzow of Pownal, Briglin of Thetford, Christie of Hartford, Cina of Burlington, Deen of Westminster, Devereux of Mount Holly, Donovan of Burlington, Grad of Moretown, Head of South Burlington, LaClair of Barre Town, Partridge of Windham, Pugh of South Burlington, Smith of Derby, Stevens of Waterbury, Strong of Albany, Toll of Danville, Townsend of South Burlington, and Wood of Waterbury

Offered by: Senators Brooks, Cummings, and Pollina

Whereas, in 1974, the Vermont Humanities Council (the Council) was established with a mission to “engage all Vermonters in the world of ideas,” and

Whereas, the Council offers its programs at colleges, libraries, museums, elementary and secondary schools, and through other venues, and

Whereas, Peter Gilbert graduated from Dartmouth College and the Georgetown University Law Center and earned a master’s degree in English from the University of Virginia, and

Whereas, he transitioned from being an attorney at a major Boston law firm to teaching English at Phillips Academy in Andover, Massachusetts, and

Whereas, after 11 years on the Academy faculty, Peter Gilbert returned to Dartmouth, serving as a senior assistant to the college’s president and then as the Associate Provost, and

Whereas, in 2002, the Council recognized that Peter Gilbert’s unusual background in the law and academia was the ideal combination for its executive director, and appointed him to this position, and

Whereas, his leadership was essential for the Council’s restoration of and relocation to a Victorian mansion in Montpelier for its headquarters in 2005, and

Whereas, the First Wednesdays series, which Peter Gilbert created, offers prominent authors, journalists, and other speakers in exciting presentations at selected public libraries, and

Whereas, he started the Vermont Reads program in which children and adults throughout the State read the same book, and

Whereas, from 2010 to 2015, during the sesquicentennial observance of the Civil War, the Council offered the Civil War Book of Days e-mail series, and

Whereas, Peter Gilbert is a frequent Vermont Public Radio commentator, the author of the book *I Was Thinking, Travels in the World of Ideas*, the executor of the Robert Frost Estate, and has served on the Board of the Federation of State Humanities Councils, and

Whereas, in 2018, Peter Gilbert is concluding his Council leadership role, and is leaving a superb record of accomplishment, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors Peter Gilbert for his outstanding leadership of the Vermont Humanities Council, and be it further

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