

No. R-59. House concurrent resolution honoring Susan and Richard Collitt for their 40-plus years of dedicated proprietorship of the Ripton Country Store.

(H.C.R.47)

Offered by: Representative Conlon of Cornwall

Offered by: Senators Bray and Hardy

Whereas, the population of the rural Addison County municipality of Ripton numbers approximately 600 persons, and

Whereas, located on Route 125, the primary highway that traverses the town, and not far from Middlebury College, the Ripton Country Store serves as a hub of local commerce and community socializing, and

Whereas, in the mid-1970s, Sue and Dick Collitt and their children resided in a Philadelphia suburb, and

Whereas, upon reading a *Wall Street Journal* advertisement announcing the sale of the Ripton Country Store, Sue and Dick Collitt were intrigued and became the store's new owners, and according to the available documentation, they were the fifth owners since the store opened in 1879, and

Whereas, ownership of this iconic Vermont mercantile institution, featuring a potbellied stove and an intentionally misspelled ice sign, became an all-encompassing venture for Sue and Dick Collitt, as the Ripton Country Store is open for 12 hours per day, Monday to Friday, 10 hours daily on Saturday and Sunday and is closed only on Christmas and part of Thanksgiving Day, and

Whereas, the Ripton Country Store features a diverse inventory of commercially marketed products, including groceries, penny candy, rock salt, kitty litter, bootlaces, baking supplies, and laundry accessories, and

Whereas, locally produced products, ranging from eggs to pickled beets, are also offered for sale, and

Whereas, the local post office's colocation with the store and the store's proximity to local Alpine and Nordic ski facilities create a steady flow of visitors, and

Whereas, when the Collitts decided to sell the business, Ripton resident and noted environmental activist and author Bill McKibben wrote an affectionate and informative classified ad on behalf of his friends, in the form of an illustrated *New York Times* op-ed that drew many inquiries, and

Whereas, after over 40 years of admirable stewardship, Sue and Dick Collitt have sold the Ripton Country Store, and it will continue the traditions of convenience and hospitality for which it has been known, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors Susan and Richard Collitt for their 40-plus years of dedicated proprietorship of the Ripton Country Store, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Sue and Dick Collitt and to the Ripton Country Store.