

# State of Vermont

## Senate Chamber



Montpelier, Vermont

### Senate Concurrent Resolution

By Senators Cummings, Perchlik, and Pollina,

**S.C.R. 11.** Senate concurrent resolution congratulating Katherine Womeldorf Paterson of Montpelier on winning the 2019 E.B. White Award for her achievement in children's literature.

*Whereas*, Katherine Paterson was born to Christian missionary parents in China, and Chinese was her first language, and

*Whereas*, although she experienced early challenges mastering English, Katherine Paterson persevered and graduated summa cum laude, as an English major, from King College in Bristol, Tennessee, and earned a master's degree from the Presbyterian School of Christian Education in Richmond, Virginia, and

*Whereas*, because political restrictions prohibited her from serving as a Christian missionary in China, she instead worked in Japan, and her study there of Japanese and Chinese culture influenced her future writing, and

*Whereas*, Katherine Paterson began her career as an author with the 1966 religious education book *Who Am I*, and her first novel, published in 1973, *The Sign of the Chrysanthemum*, was set in the Japanese medieval period, and

*Whereas*, her most popular work, *Bridge to Terabithia*, for which she won the 1978 Newbery Medal for American children's literature, was based on the death of her son David's friend, and in 1981, Katherine Paterson was the recipient of a second Newbery Medal for her novel *Jacob Have I Loved*, and

*Whereas*, on two occasions, Katherine Paterson was the recipient of the prestigious National Book Award, in 1977 for *The Master Puppeteer* and in 1979 for *The Great Gilly Hopkins*, and

*Whereas*, Katherine Paterson is the author of more than 30 books, including 16 novels for children, and the recipient of numerous honors, including the Hans Christian Andersen Award, what has become the Children's Literature Legacy Award, and special recognition from several major American libraries, and

*Whereas*, her 2006 novel *Bread and Roses, Too* gained its inspiration from a historic photograph of children standing on the steps of the Old Labor Hall in Barre, and

*Whereas*, in 2019, Katherine Paterson was one of 17 writers whom the American Academy of Arts and Letters honored with a lifetime achievement award, in her instance, the E.B. White Award, for her contributions to children's literature, *now therefore be it*

#### ***Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:***

That the General Assembly congratulates Katherine Womeldorf Paterson of Montpelier on winning the 2019 E.B. White Award for her achievement in children's literature, *and be it further*

***Resolved:*** That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Katherine Paterson.