

No. R-259. Senate concurrent resolution congratulating Jay and Joan Zwynenburg on the 50th anniversary of Jay's Art Shop & Frame Gallery and for their roles as exemplary downtown Bennington entrepreneurs.

(S.C.R.22)

By Senators Campion and Sears,

By Representatives Corcoran of Bennington, Morrissey of Bennington, Nigro of Bennington, and Whitman of Bennington

Whereas, Jay's Art Shop is a retail landmark in downtown Bennington, with the deserved reputation as the ideal place for the customized framing of certificates, diplomas, lithographs, paintings, photographs, serigraphs, and other items worthy of display on a wall, and

Whereas, Jay and Joan Zwynenburg, the founders of Jay's Art Shop & Frame Gallery, met in 1955 as students at the University of Vermont, and

Whereas, despite his employment in a senior position at IBM's New York City office, Jay Zwynenburg stunned his colleagues by abandoning his corporate career to open a bookstore in Bennington, the first of seven stores the Zwynenburgs have owned in the community, and

Whereas, although the Zwynenburgs ultimately sold six of their stores, they retained Jay's Art Shop & Frame Gallery, which, in its earlier days, featured an adjoining art gallery, and which was highly successful, and

Whereas, on May 1, 2022, Jay's Art Shop & Frame Gallery proudly marked a half century of bringing viewing pleasure to its customers, and in commemoration of this wonderful milestone, a celebratory ceremony was held at which the Better Bennington Corporation presented the store with a plaque marking the occasion, Town Manager Stuart Hurd and other officials conducted an honorary ribbon-cutting, and an historic 50 percent-off sale was held, and

Whereas, the downtown Bennington business community and the store's loyal customers greatly admire Jay and Joan Zwynenburg, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates Jay and Joan Zwynenburg on the 50th anniversary of Jay's Art Shop & Frame Gallery and for their roles as exemplary downtown Bennington entrepreneurs, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Jay and Joan Zwynenburg in Bennington.