

State of Vermont House of Representatives



Montpelier, Vermont

Concurrent House Resolution

H.C.R. 54

House concurrent resolution honoring Bruce Sklar, Harwood Union Middle and High School jazz teacher extraordinaire

Offered by: Representatives Dolan of Waitsfield, Holcombe of Norwich, Stevens of Waterbury, Torre of Moretown, and Wood of Waterbury

Whereas, the exciting jazz melodies and rhythms created at Harwood Union Middle and High School resulted from the creativity of faculty member Bruce Sklar, and

Whereas, his interest in jazz began as a youngster in Newton, Massachusetts, where he grew up in a musically astute family, and

Whereas, the hours spent in the local Kota Audio store and the lessons absorbed from his first jazz teacher, Gene Ashton, later known as Cooper Moore, proved invaluable, and

Whereas, although an aspiring jazz musician, Bruce Sklar auditioned for entrance into the University of Massachusetts Amherst as a classical music student, as the jazz program, of which he was the first graduate, was only established after his admission, and

Whereas, his move to the Mad River Valley began with visits to friends' ski houses, regular trips to participate in Warren's Fourth of July celebration, and, eventually, to join the jazz band Pure Pressure, and

Whereas, in 1994, Chris Rivers, the Harwood music teacher, invited Bruce Sklar to teach jazz part-time at Harwood, and Bruce Sklar developed both high school and middle school jazz bands, and, in 1999, he became a full-time faculty member who taught students to synthesize their musical ideas, thereby not only producing great jazz players, but establishing an intellectual skill they have applied in amazing careers unrelated to music, and

Whereas, his jazz nights at Harwood were truly memorable musical collaborations and improvisations, and

Whereas, in the 2022–2023 academic year, Bruce Sklar is bidding farewell to Harwood Union Middle and High School, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors Bruce Sklar, Harwood Union Middle and High School jazz teacher extraordinaire, and be it further

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