

No. R-57. House concurrent resolution congratulating Keeler's Bay Variety Store of South Hero on the 50th anniversary of the Horne family's ownership.

(H.C.R.41)

Offered by Representatives Morgan, M. of Milton, Harrison of Chittenden, and Morgan, L. of Milton

Offered by Senator Brennan

Whereas, the story of Keeler's Bay Variety Store (KBV) is intimately intertwined with the lives of Gail and Mark Horne, who, in 1974, took a leisurely drive across the Champlain Islands and discovered a small grocery store in South Hero, which they subsequently purchased, and

Whereas, under their visionary leadership, KBV evolved into a full-service general store, featuring a bakery, a beer cave stocked with craft beers, the largest 802Spirits store in the Champlain Islands, an in-store butchery, and motor vehicle gasoline sales, and this friendly community retailer earned a reputation for superb customer service, and

Whereas, at the 2000 Vermont Grocers' Association Convention, KBV was honored as the Grocer of the Year and, separately, the Lake Champlain Islands Economic Development Corporation awarded KBV its 2017 Business of the Year designation, and

Whereas, on Saturday, September 21, 2024, KBV and the Horne family marked their joint 50th-anniversary milestone with a unique version of the store's annual Customer Appreciation Day, and in celebration, a variety of commemorative memorabilia was offered for sale, and

Whereas, KBV has a proud association with community support service groups and contributes to local nonprofit organizations, and

Whereas, the store, whose ownership team now includes the Horne's daughter, Wendy, has earned the moniker, "The Heart of the Island," which was also the name of a limited edition semicentennial ale that the Kraemer & Kin Brewery created to celebrate this special anniversary, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates Keeler's Bay Variety Store of South Hero on the 50th anniversary of the Horne family's ownership, *and be it further*

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