

No. R-58. House concurrent resolution honoring Oxbow Union High School Co-Principal and *Gather* author Kenneth M. Cadow of Norwich.

(H.C.R.42)

Offered by Representatives Holcombe of Norwich, Masland of Thetford, Parsons of Newbury, and Priestley of Bradford

Whereas, Ken Cadow is a strategic thinker and a renaissance man with expertise in diverse domains as well as being an idealist and pragmatist, and

Whereas, later in life, Ken Cadow opted for a new career in public education that has culminated in his current role as co-principal at Oxbow Union High School, the regional high school serving Bradford and adjacent communities, where his skills, empathy, and wisdom are appreciated, and

Whereas, he has an ability to connect classroom learning to the broader society and understands that interpersonal relationships can unify a community, and

Whereas, in 2023, Ken Cadow's busy life added an exciting new dimension with the publication of his first young adult novel, *Gather*, the story of Ian, an impoverished rural Vermont 10th grader who assumes adult family responsibilities while also adopting a stray dog named Gather, and

Whereas, the novel immediately garnered critical and popular acclaim, including designation as a 2023 Vermont Book Award finalist in the children's literature category; being named a 2024 Michael L. Printz Honor Book; and most recently winning the prestigious 2024 Kirkus Prize for young readers' literature, all astounding accolades for a first-time author, and

Whereas, the Vermont Humanities council has selected *Gather* as the organization's 2024–2025 Vermont Reads book, to be read and discussed across the State of Vermont in well over 100 different communities, and

Whereas, *Gather* has inspired thousands of Vermonters of all ages to take action in support of housing and food security, substance abuse recovery, and youth empowerment, and

Whereas, Ken Cadow is a valued resident of the town of Norwich, and he has contributed to the betterment of the town through his associations with the Norwich Public Library and Marion Cross Elementary School, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors Oxbow Union High School Co-Principal and *Gather* author Kenneth M. Cadow of Norwich, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Ken Cadow and Oxbow Union High School.