

No. R-191. House concurrent resolution honoring Melvin and Susan Coburn for their nearly half-century of superb proprietorship of Coburns' General Store in South Strafford and congratulating the Strafford Community Trust on a successful fundraising campaign to preserve this historic mercantile establishment.

(H.C.R.155)

Offered by Representatives Masland of Thetford and Holcombe of Norwich

Whereas, since the 1880s, South Strafford has been the home of a beloved general store that, for nearly half a century, featured the dedicated proprietorship of Melvin and Susan Coburn, including 27 years when their daughter, Chrissy Jamieson, worked beside her parents for 12-hour days, and

Whereas, the Coburns operated a truly full-service general store, where not only grocery and other in-demand products were sold, but they also hosted a bank, a deer weighing station, a gas pump, a tiny laundromat, and the local U.S. Post Office, and the store also welcomed local nonprofit organizations' bake sales and maintained a lost and found drop-off service, and

Whereas, typical of their hometown relationships, the Coburns extended exceptional kindness to local youngsters, including the then-young and now-popular music star Noah Kahan, but although the Coburns extended a warm welcome to his fans who traveled to South Strafford, the couple faithfully protected the Kahan family's privacy, never revealing a home address, and

Whereas, after decades of ensuring their store was fully stocked and ready to serve customers from near and far, the Coburns desired to step back from their daily duties and sell to a member of the younger generation, and

Whereas, this objective proved challenging, and friends of Coburns' General Store, both in Strafford and nearby Upper Valley communities, spearheaded a successful \$1.8 million fundraising campaign to purchase the store under the rubric of the Strafford Community Trust, and

Whereas, this nonprofit model of general store ownership, which has proven successful in other Vermont communities, is now, with the guidance of new management, ensuring the continuance and vitality of the store, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors Melvin and Susan Coburn for their nearly half-century of superb proprietorship of Coburns' General Store in South Strafford and congratulates the Strafford Community Trust on a successful fundraising campaign to preserve this historic mercantile establishment, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Coburn family, the Strafford Community Trust, and the store.