

No. R-338. House concurrent resolution congratulating Northshire Bookstore on 50 years of outstanding literary merchandising and promotion.

(H.C.R.280)

Offered by Representatives James of Manchester, Hunter of Manchester, Morrow of Weston, and Pinsonault of Dorset

Offered by Senators Bongartz and Plunkett

Whereas, in 1976, Ed and Barbara Morrow (the Morrows) decided to “provide bookselling excellence in a safe, inclusive environment that welcomes everyone on Main Street in Manchester Center,” and they opened Northshire Bookstore (Northshire), and

Whereas, in 1985, they relocated Northshire across Main Street to the landmark Colburn House, a former inn and restaurant, and

Whereas, by 2003, Northshire’s increasing popularity as a favorite destination for book buying and associated activities was apparent, and under the leadership of the Morrows’ son, Chris, 10,000 square feet of new space was added to the Colburn House, providing a more spacious home, and

Whereas, in 2006, *Publisher’s Weekly*, a national publication reporting on all matters related to the book industry, honored the innovative Northshire as the organization’s Bookseller of the Year (now known as Bookstore of the Year), a highly coveted industry award, and, in 2013, the Morrow family opened a second location in Saratoga Springs, New York, and

Whereas, in 2021, the highly successful 45 years of Morrow-family ownership concluded, and Clark and Lu French enthusiastically purchased Northshire, with a commitment to continue its great tradition as a premiere destination for book lovers, but, sadly, Lu French died in 2022, and

Whereas, happily, an interested local family, consisting of sisters Cathleen Ihasz, Nicole Ihasz, and Ashley Ihasz-Austin, and Ashley’s husband, Scott, purchased the bookstore, which greets tens of thousands of visitors annually and offers a special and much-appreciated shopping experience, and

Whereas, Northshire has developed a dedicated and loyal staff of bookselling professionals, and many employees remain for decades, and

Whereas, annually, over 200 events occur at or under the store’s sponsorship, including author talks; story times; children’s author appearances at local schools; regional and international reader and writer retreats; curated personal shopping services; and, most especially, the annual Northshire Book Festival: A Weekend in Booktopia, and Northshire also supports the community through donations and other partnerships, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives

That the General Assembly congratulates Northshire Bookstore on 50 years of outstanding literary merchandising and promotion, *and be it further*

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