

No. R-360. House concurrent resolution congratulating former Shaftsbury Selectboard Chair Arthur Whitman and his wife Kathy Whitman as the recipients of the 2026 Shaftsbury Ordinary Hero Award.

(H.C.R.302)

Offered by Representative Durfee of Shaftsbury

Offered by Senators Bongartz and Plunkett

Whereas, Art and Kathy Whitman are lifelong residents of the Shaftsbury area, and during their 60-year marriage, the couple's professional and personal initiatives and leadership have benefited their community, and

Whereas, from 1988 until 2015, the Whitmans owned Whitman's Feed Store, an agricultural retailer that introduced state-of-the-art grain technology and best practices in animal nutrition to the economic benefit of the business, and the store served as a reliable source of employment; the Whitmans were known to help local farmers in need, and they were generous donors to local animal rescue organizations, and

Whereas, as the owners of A&K Agriservices, the Whitmans sponsor local community events, including the Garlic Town USA Festival, and

Whereas, in their roles as award-winning NorShaft Lions, the couple has supported efforts aiding disabled individuals, a healthy environment, and seniors; the Whitmans have chaired various community functions, including an annual Easter egg hunt, a charity golf tournament, a chili fest, Christmas tree sales, the Night for Sight Dinner Dance, Oktoberfest, the Peace Poster Contest, and youth camps; they are also long-term supporters of the Shaftsbury Historical Society and the Eagle Square Museum, and, in December 2025, they organized the town's first tractor parade, and

Whereas, as president and secretary-treasurer, respectively, of the Bennington County Farm Bureau, Art and Kathy Whitman advocate for forward-looking agricultural policy that is in the farming community's best interests, and

Whereas, Art Whitman has served his town and State in elected and appointed positions; as a member of the Shaftsbury Selectboard (2014–2024), including as chair of the town's economic development and water committees, he advocated for the creation of the Shaftsbury Town Green and community center; and he served as a member of the Vermont Rail Advisory Council, and

Whereas, in recognition of the couple's extraordinary civic contributions to life in Shaftsbury, Art and Kathy Whitman are the recipients of the town's 2026 Ordinary Hero Award, an honor that is richly deserved, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates former Shaftsbury Selectboard Chair Arthur Whitman and his wife Kathy Whitman as the recipients of the 2026 Shaftsbury Ordinary Hero Award, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Arthur and Kathy Whitman.