

State of Vermont House of Representatives



Montpelier, Vermont

Concurrent House Resolution

H.C.R. 240

Offered by Representatives Bartholomew of Hartland and Burrows of West Windsor

House concurrent resolution congratulating Stephen R. Bissette on his designation as the sixth Vermont Cartoonist Laureate

Whereas, in a nationally unique collaboration between the Center for Cartoon Studies in White River Junction and the Vermont Arts Council, the Vermont Cartoonist Laureate program advances the recognition of comics as a distinctive and powerful artistic medium, spanning graphic novels, journalism, children's literature, and other forms of storytelling, and

Whereas, the graphic artists previously so honored were James Kochalka, Ed Koren, Alison Bechdel, Rick Veitch, and, most recently, Tillie Walden, and

Whereas, the newly designated sixth Vermont Cartoonist Laureate is Stephen R. Bissette of Windsor, a Waterbury native and a 1973 graduate of Harwood Union High School (and a 2025 inductee into the school's hall of fame), and, professionally, he is a proud alumnus of the Joe Kubert School of Cartoon and Graphic Art's first graduating class, an internationally recognized and honored cartoonist and publisher, a dedicated artists' advocate who was a signatory of the 1988 Creator's Bill of Rights, and a founding faculty member of the Center for Cartoon Studies, and

Whereas, in 1976, prior to enrolling at the Kubert School, Stephen R. Bissette began his comics publishing career with *Abyss*, and his reputation as a leading comic book artist and groundbreaking contributor to the medium's horror genre were confirmed when he served as the cocreator and an artist (with Alan Moore and John Totleben) of *Saga of the Swamp Thing*, a comic series that introduced the enduring character of John Constantine, and

Whereas, his career contributions to comic book creation and publication have ranged from the dinosaur epic *Tyrant*, the adaptation of Steven Spielberg's film *1941* as a graphic novel, *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle* projects, and as the cocreator and coeditor (again, in collaboration with John Totleben) of the influential *Taboo* anthology, and he introduced an important outlet for independent comic book publishing and a home for boundary-pushing creators, and

Whereas, Stephen R. Bissette, whose graphic artistry has extended to many unique applications, is the winner of top professional honors, including multiple Jack Kirby Comics Industry Awards, the Inkpot Award, and the Eisner Award, all outstanding credentials for this career recognition, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates Stephen R. Bissette on his designation as the sixth Vermont Cartoonist Laureate, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Stephen R. Bissette, the Center for Cartoon Studies, and the Vermont Arts Council.