

**No. R-197. House concurrent resolution honoring John Bisbee for his nearly three decades of extraordinary public service as a guardian ad litem.**

(H.C.R.158)

Offered by: Representatives Rachelson of Burlington, Brumsted of Shelburne, Buckholz of Hartford, Grad of Moretown, and Pugh of South Burlington

Whereas, in 1988, John Bisbee decided to volunteer as a guardian ad litem, and

Whereas, a guardian ad litem, according to *Black's Law Dictionary*, is a court-appointed individual charged with either prosecuting or defending, on behalf of an infant (meaning a minor) or an incompetent person, in cases in which the infant or incompetent person is a party, and

Whereas, when John Bisbee assumed this special role, the State of Vermont did not provide any training for guardians ad litem, and

Whereas, despite the challenges involved, he approached his assignments with absolute compassion, commitment, and a steadfastness to do what is right and just, and

Whereas, his work as a guardian ad litem was not restricted to advocating for specific children as his interest extended to improving the child welfare and Family Court support systems for all children, and

Whereas, John Bisbee applied his professional engineering experience and passion for data analysis to discover and develop better ways to assist children whose family situations necessitated public support services or judicial involvement, and

Whereas, he participated in the Court Improvement Project and conducted independent research that examined the effectiveness of the Family Services Division of the Department for Children and Families, and

Whereas, John Bisbee's generous volunteerism has also included working with the statewide Permanency Planning Project, the former Chittenden County Family Treatment Court, the Chittenden Family Court, the State Court Administrator, and nonprofit organizations such as Lund, the KidSafe Collaborative, Planned Parenthood, and the Vermont Children's Aid Society, and

Whereas, in December 2016, John Bisbee, whose advocacy on behalf of especially vulnerable children was remarkable and inspiring, concluded his nearly three decades serving as a much-admired guardian ad litem, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors John Bisbee for his nearly three decades of extraordinary public service as a guardian ad litem, and be it further

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