

No. R-207. Senate concurrent resolution honoring John Shannahan for his extraordinary contributions to the economic and cultural life of the Town of Bennington.

(S.C.R.17)

By Senators Campion and Sears,

By Representatives Corcoran of Bennington, Morrissey of Bennington, Nigro of Bennington, and Whitman of Bennington

Whereas, John Shannahan sparked an exciting new vitality in Bennington, and

Whereas, his effective institutional leadership at the Downtown Bennington Alliance, and later at the Better Bennington Corporation, reflected a strong dedication to creating a welcoming and nurturing climate in which existing businesses can expand and new ones be established, and

Whereas, John Shannahan's role as Bennington's ambassador extraordinaire was pivotal in discussions with out-of-town corporate officials, when testifying before legislative committees, and when working with funding organizations, and

Whereas, as executive director of the Better Bennington Corporation, John Shannahan promoted a vision of Bennington as a center for artistic, business, entertainment, and recreational activities, and as a community whose downtown exudes an authentic small-town Vermont "Main Street" character, and

Whereas, during his tenure at the Better Bennington Corporation, a Tax-Increment Financing district was established, creating a taxing mechanism that provides economic incentives for new development initiatives, and

Whereas, the Putnam Block Redevelopment project has attracted new businesses and residents to downtown Bennington, and John Shannahan's expert guidance was a critical element in the project's creation and fruition, and

Whereas, he served on the board of the Bennington Area Arts Council and was a unique informational resource for newcomers to the community, and

Whereas, John Shannahan has concluded his role as the executive director of the Better Bennington Corporation, and Benningtonians are grateful for his impactful community service, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors John Shannahan for his extraordinary contributions to the economic and cultural vitality of the Town of Bennington, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to John Shannahan and the Better Bennington Corporation.