

No. R-288. Senate concurrent resolution congratulating radio station WDEV in Waterbury, as the first electronic media winner of the Matthew Lyon Award.

(S.C.R.33)

By Senators Doyle, Cummings, and Pollina,

By Representatives Ellis of Waterbury and Stevens of Waterbury,

Whereas, in 1798, Matthew Lyon represented a Vermont congressional district, when he was arrested and jailed for publishing a letter criticizing President John Adams, a violation of the recently adopted Alien and Sedition Act, and

Whereas, the Vermont Press Association (VPA) established the Matthew Lyon Award to honor lifetime commitment to the First Amendment and the public's right to know, and

Whereas, until 2013, the Matthew Lyon Award had always been awarded to one of Vermont's daily or weekly newspapers, and

Whereas, in 2013, the VPA decided to break with this tradition when it presented the Matthew Lyon Award to radio station WDEV in Waterbury, and

Whereas, since its inception in 1931, WDEV has featured extensive local and State news coverage, including the General Assembly, where Mark Johnson originates a weekly talk show during the legislative session, Town Meeting Day, with detailed reports on the results from many municipalities, and Election Day, with comprehensive coverage, and

Whereas, WDEV produced in-depth live coverage during Tropical Storm Irene, and

Whereas, the station is proud to have won more broadcast journalism awards than any commercial radio station in Vermont, and

Whereas, in awarding this honor to an electronic media outlet, VPA President Maria Archangelo stated that "WDEV is one of the few fully live radio stations in Vermont that bring the latest breaking news to listeners as it happens," and

Whereas, WDEV President Ken Squier describes the station's winning the 2013 Matthew Lyon Award as perhaps "the most meaningful and important" award of the many it has received over 82 years, and that WDEV was "truly humbled by and appreciative of this honor," *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates WDEV as the first electronic media winner of the Matthew Lyon Award, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to radio station WDEV in Waterbury.