

**No. R-199. House concurrent resolution congratulating Claussen Enterprises, Inc. of Colchester on being named the 2008 Vermont Retailer of the Year.**

(H.C.R.128)

Offered by: Representatives Condon of Colchester, Brennan of Colchester, Spengler of Colchester and Zenie of Colchester

Offered by: Senator Mazza

Whereas, William “Willie” Claussen was born into a commercial gardening family in Long Island, New York, and

Whereas, in 1972, William Claussen moved permanently from New York state to Vermont and consolidated the professional gardening operations he had started in each state, and

Whereas, William Claussen worked energetically, eventually establishing Claussen’s Florist and Greenhouse and the Claussen Perennial Farm in Colchester, and

Whereas, he partnered with the equally energetic Chris Conant in the 1980s to keep the business growing, and

Whereas, although William Clausen is now semiretired, he remains the inspiration and backbone of the business, and Chris Conant has assumed the responsibility for daily managerial decisions, and

Whereas, the Vermont Retail Association (VRA) received two dozen nominations for its 2008 “Vermont Retailer of the Year” award and selected Claussen Enterprises, Inc., the parent company for the Claussen gardening businesses, and

Whereas, in announcing the award, the VRA judges noted that “year after year, Claussen’s has overcome every obstacle a Vermont business can face while maintaining only the highest quality in products and service. Their plants are exceptional, their staff is superb, and they exemplify the very best aspects of retail business,” and

Whereas, the town of Colchester is fortunate to have the Claussen businesses in the community and a dedicated public servant such as Chris Conant to serve on its selectboard, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates Claussen Enterprises, Inc. of Colchester on being named the 2008 Vermont Retailer of the Year, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Chris Conant at Claussen’s Florist and Greenhouse in Colchester.