

No. R-347. House concurrent resolution honoring St. Lawrence University Director of Athletic Media Relations Walter H. Johnson.

(H.C.R.262)

Offered by: Representative Parent of St. Albans Town

Whereas, journalism and athletics have been the twin pillars of St. Albans native and 1971 UVM graduate Wally Johnson's distinguished career, and

Whereas, his first professional journalism position was at the *St. Albans Messenger* and the former *Vermont Sunday News*, and

Whereas, his craftsmanship as a chronicler of athletic competition earned him the 1971 Vermont Sportswriter of the Year award, and

Whereas, Wally Johnson moved on to the *Burlington Free Press* as an education reporter and then assistant sports editor, and

Whereas, in 1975, a new career path emerged, as Wally Johnson left the excitement of newspaper reporting for the different pace of college sports information, and

Whereas, he traveled across Lake Champlain to the friendly confines of St. Lawrence University in Canton, New York, and

Whereas, Wally Johnson's primary role was to write interesting stories relating the exploits of the St. Lawrence Saints teams, but his myriad duties were far more extensive, and

Whereas, in his first winter on campus, Wally Johnson launched a broadcasting career as the color commentator for St. Lawrence men's hockey radio play-by-play, and, years later, he created the university's first sports information website, and

Whereas, Wally Johnson has served as the host Sports Information Director for a number of National Collegiate Athletic Association events, and

Whereas, he was instrumental in establishing and selecting candidates for the St. Lawrence University Athletic Hall of Fame, and

Whereas, for a quarter of a century, Wally Johnson served on the Eastern College Athletic Conference-Sports Information Directors Association's board of directors, and

Whereas, he is the recipient of several prestigious professional honors and is a 2013 College Sports Information Directors of America Hall of Fame inductee, and

Whereas, after 41 years of superb oversight of sports information services at St. Lawrence University, Wally Johnson has announced that the 2015–2016 academic year will be his last as the university's Director of Athletic Media Relations, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors St. Lawrence University Director of Athletic Media Relations Walter H. Johnson, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Wally Johnson at St. Lawrence University.