

NO. R-10. SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING *THE BRIDGE* NEWSPAPER ON ITS 15TH ANNIVERSARY.

(S.C.R.2)

By Senators Doyle, Cummings and Scott,

By Representatives Kitzmiller, Hooper and McDonald,

Whereas, journalistic excellence is robustly displayed on the pages of Montpelier's community-based weekly newspaper *The Bridge*, and

Whereas, in February 1993, Montpelier writer Phil Dodd proposed that a new community-centered and -focused newspaper be established in Vermont's capital city, and

Whereas, after much preparation and planning, the first issue of *The Montpelier Bridge*, with a mission "to represent the life and diversity of people in this community," appeared at many public locations for free distribution the following December, and

Whereas, the inaugural issue's production team consisted of editor Bernie Folta with the assistance of Phil Dodd; graphic designer and writer Jake Brown; graphic designer, writer and editor Kate Mueller; graphic designer Mason Singer; ad salesperson Nancy Schulz; Dan Renfro, who performed innumerable tasks; and Steve Larose, whose editorial and publishing experience was applied in numerous leadership roles, and

Whereas, provisional board members Nat Frothingham, Nikki Parker and Don Pfister also provided important early advice, input and support, and

Whereas, *The Montpelier Bridge's* frequency of publication increased from four to five times per year to ten by the year 2000, and, in 2008, the ultimate step of commencing weekly publication was implemented, and

Whereas, a major addition for *The Montpelier Bridge* was the introduction of *Horizons*, the newspaper's innovative and lively arts section which, under the initial editorial direction of Edith Black Zfass, fulfilled another *Bridge* goal "that the world of ideas and of imagination and creativity should also be prized and represented in a paper like the *Bridge*," and

Whereas, during the past 15 years, the paper's coverage area has expanded to include other nearby towns in Washington County, and in recognition of this broader audience, its name was changed to *The Bridge*, signifying the publication's role as a connector of the communities that it serves, and

Whereas, among the special features of *The Bridge* are the creative editorial cartoons of Tim Newcomb and articles that many reader-contributors submit, and

Whereas, for much of its existence, *The Bridge* was under the combined leadership of Nat Frothingham and Jake Brown, and more recently, Nat Frothingham has served as publisher with John Walters performing the role of managing editor, and

Whereas, *The Bridge* has entered the cyberspace era in a major way, prominently posting its content on the "World Wide Web", but the dedicated employees and volunteers who create this weekly newspaper are committed to the continued presence of its printed pages, and

Whereas, *The Bridge* provides "a signature, voice, and identity to the place" its readers call home, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the capital city's community newspaper *The Bridge* as it commemorates its 15th anniversary, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Nat Frothingham at *The Bridge* in Montpelier.