

***** EMBARGOED UNTIL 4:30 PM, TUESDAY JULY 26, 2016 *****

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Vermont Public Servant Kermit Smith to be Honored at Surprise Bridge Dedication Ceremony

Derby, Vt. - The Northeast Kingdom community is revealing a well-kept secret Tuesday by renaming the Clyde River Bridge in honor of former Vermont State Representative, Senator and State House Sergeant-At-Arms Kermit Smith. Despite legislative action and rigorous planning, Mr. Smith's former constituents have managed to keep him in the dark about the coming honor.

Senator Bobby Starr (D-Essex-Orleans), Sen. John Rodgers (D-Essex-Orleans), Lt. Governor Phil Scott, and Smith's family and friends are holding a surprise dedication ceremony on Bridge #64 (currently the "Clyde River Bridge") on Route 105 in Derby at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, where Mr. Smith will join them in time to hear the span be renamed the "Kermit A. Smith Memorial Bridge".

"When people work as hard as Kerm has, and they've done it for their friends, their neighbors – even the people who don't like them and didn't vote for them – they deserve to get a 'thank you,'" said Sen. Starr. "I'm proud to shake his hand and say his name will be part of the landscape here in Derby for generations."

The naming was made possible with the Vermont Senate's passage of Senate Resolution 14 on May 6, 2016. Sen. Starr sponsored the resolution, with Sen. Rodgers as co-sponsor. [Click here to read the full text of S.R.14.](#)

"I think it's great that we can start a new tradition of honoring people when we can let them in on the celebration. Kerm's done so much for the community up here, it's right to give something back," said Sen. Rodgers.

"As politicians and public servants we're trained to weather all kinds of storms, so I think a bridge is a very appropriate monument for a Vermonter who built their reputation on rising above the fray and connecting their community with the rest of the state," said Lt. Gov. Scott. "Kermit Smith reminds us that making an impact starts at home, in our own towns, and finding ways to reach those on the other side."

WHAT: Bridge Dedication for Vermont State Representative, Senator and Sgt.-At-Arms Kermit Smith, pursuant to S.R. 14.

WHEN: Tuesday, July 26, 4:30 p.m.

WHERE: Clyde River Bridge/Bridge #64, Route 105, Derby, VT

NOTE: Lt. Gov. Scott, Sen. Starr and Sen. Rodgers will be in attendance at the ceremony.

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