

**CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

**ADDENDUM**

**TO THE**

**HOUSE CALENDAR**

**Text of House Concurrent  
Resolutions**

**of**

**April 4, 2024**

## **Concurrent Resolutions for Adoption Under Joint Rules 16a -16d**

The following concurrent resolutions will be adopted automatically unless a Senator or Representative requests floor consideration in the member's chamber prior to adjournment of the next legislative day. Requests for floor consideration in either chamber should be communicated to the Senate Secretary's Office or the House Clerk's Office, as applicable.

### **H.C.R. 201**

House concurrent resolution honoring Cindy Scott's third-grade class at Twinfield Union School for establishing a special friendship with the young patients at St. Nicholas Pediatric Hospital-UNBROKEN KIDS Rehabilitation Center in Lviv, Ukraine

Offered by: Representatives Mihaly of Calais and Masland of Thetford

Offered by: Senator Vyhovsky

Whereas, on February 24, 2022, Russia invaded its neighbor, the independent nation of Ukraine, with a fury that shocked the world, and, as of February 24, 2024, aside from the multitude of military personnel casualties, Ukraine had experienced over 10,500 civilian deaths, including 587 children, and

Whereas, St. Nicholas Pediatric Hospital in Lviv serves as the national medical hub for the treatment and rehabilitation of children injured by this war, and

Whereas, a world away, in Marshfield, Vermont, teacher Cindy Scott's third-grade class at Twinfield Union School, comprising students Autumn, Cassidy, Elise, Evelyn, Finn, George, Georgia, Gus, Jace, Liev, Lennix, Lincoln, Maeve, Matthew, Micah, Phil, Sadie, and Shay, decided, on their own initiative, to create "fidget" toy packets for these war victims, with personal notes of caring and love from each student composed in both English and Ukrainian, and arrangements were made for personal delivery of the packages, and

Whereas, after the gifts were delivered, the Twinfield third graders participated in a Zoom session with their counterparts in the "Superhero Class" at St. Nicholas Pediatric Hospital, during which the youngsters at each location asked questions, sang songs, and recited poetry, and

Whereas, this extraordinary act of friendship was recognized with a fun class photo that appeared in the *Times Argus* newspaper and the third graders' receipt of a beautiful and heartfelt letter of gratitude from St. Nicholas Pediatric Hospital, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors Cindy Scott's third-grade class at Twinfield Union School for establishing a special friendship with the young patients at St. Nicholas Pediatric Hospital-UNBROKEN KIDS Rehabilitation Center in Lviv, Ukraine, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Twinfield Union School and to St. Nicholas Pediatric Hospital.

### **H.C.R. 202**

House concurrent resolution congratulating Esta Broutsas Smith of Brattleboro on her centennial birthday

Offered by: Representatives Burke of Brattleboro, Kornheiser of Brattleboro, and Toleno of Brattleboro

Offered by: Senators Harrison and Hashim

Whereas, the citizens of Brattleboro are well acquainted with the Broutsas family: the late Michael Broutsas, a veteran State representative, was the first Vermont legislator born in Greece; and his daughter, Esta Broutsas Smith, has contributed in many ways to the quality of life in Brattleboro, and

Whereas, Esta Broutsas was born in January 1924 in Greenfield, Massachusetts, and her family moved to Brattleboro shortly after her birth, and

Whereas, although she started kindergarten unable to speak English, as a teacher for over half a century, Esta Broutsas Smith maximized the reading ability of many students, even those with learning challenges, and

Whereas, at 19 years of age, Esta Broutsas became the sole teacher at a one-room schoolhouse in Guilford; for many years, she was a special educator at the Green Street School in Brattleboro; and, although she concluded her career as a full-time teacher at 75 years of age, her career in education continued as she volunteered to assist prisoners in the improvement of their reading skills, and

Whereas, the arts are important in her life, and she frequently attended drama and music performances at local venues, and, even today, she remains a regular virtual attendee, and

Whereas, her love of outdoor recreation and her appreciation for Vermont's natural beauty were exemplified through daily road or woods hikes, cross-country skiing, and avidly playing tennis until she reached 90 years of age, and

Whereas, Esta Broutsas Smith's strong sense of justice complemented the humanitarian values of the Unitarian Universalist Church, her spiritual home, and

Whereas, she has resided in the same house since 1956, situated on the farm with the large red barn that her father purchased in 1928, and

Whereas, Esta Broutsas Smith's active lifestyle, healthy diet, continuing interest in the surrounding world, and her large, supportive extended family, have all contributed to her life's reaching the century milestone, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates Esta Broutsas Smith of Brattleboro on her centennial birthday, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Esta Broutsas Smith.

### **H.C.R. 203**

House concurrent resolution congratulating former Representative and Unadilla Theater impresario William Blachly of Calais on his 100th birthday

Offered by: Representatives O'Brien of Tunbridge and Mihaly of Calais

Offered by: Senators Cummings, Perchlik, and Watson

Whereas, for a man who was unable to read until the seventh grade and finds math a steep challenge, Bill Blachly has summited seemingly insurmountable peaks in life and especially in the dramatic arts, and

Whereas, Bill Blachly's personal journey, which has featured the inevitable comic and tragic scenes, started with his birth on April 13, 1924 in New Jersey, where he was raised in the Township of Montclair; and, as a youth, he enjoyed attending Broadway shows and Metropolitan Opera performances in New York City, and

Whereas, during his World War II U.S. Navy service, his vessel sank, but, fortunately, he was rescued, and he later attended Oberlin College in Ohio and graduated from Goddard College, and

Whereas, in 1956, Bill Blachly abandoned a career in college administration and purchased the dilapidated Broadview Farm in Calais, where he initially milked a small dairy herd and later raised a flock of sheep, and

Whereas, in 1965, prior to the historic Vermont legislative reapportionment, the voters of the Town of Calais elected Bill Blachly, for one term, as their

first Democratic State representative—and their last, regardless of political party—to serve in the “Big House,” and, despite his mathematical shortcomings, he later worked in the Vermont Department of Taxes, and

Whereas, Bill Blachly volunteered with community theater organizations in Plainfield and Barre, and was a leader in the restoration of the Barre Opera House; and, in 1983, on extremely short notice, he transferred a Plainfield Little Theater production of Anton Chekhov’s *Uncle Vanya* to a nonexistent performance venue in his own barn, which he named the Unadilla Theater after the manufacturer’s name that was listed on the building’s rafters, and

Whereas, 21 Gilbert and Sullivan, 10 Shakespeare, 10 Chekhov, six Fugard, six Shaw, three Ibsen, and 130 other productions later, he has created a community theater legacy with his partner since 1980, Ann O’Brien; along with his former wife, Alice; and other family members and friends, and

Whereas, his own thespian desires were satisfied as the incumbent member of Congress who Fred Tuttle challenges in the 1996 classic Vermont film *Man with a Plan*, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates former Representative and Unadilla Theater impresario William Blachly of Calais on his 100th birthday, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Bill Blachly.

#### **H.C.R. 204**

House concurrent resolution congratulating Jaden Coppins of Colchester on her individual title victory at the inaugural New England girls’ wrestling championship

Offered by: Representatives Austin of Colchester, Brennan of Colchester, Chase of Colchester, and Taylor of Colchester

Offered by: Senator Mazza

Whereas, high school wrestling is often considered a boys’ sport, but, in recent years, girls have become enthusiastic competitors, and

Whereas, the vibrancy of girls’ high school wrestling was apparent recently when the first New England championship was held in Providence, Rhode Island, and

Whereas, this historic tournament featured a special Vermont aspect as several Vermonters earned podium positions in their respective weight classes, and

Whereas, most significant was the achievement of Colchester High School senior Jaden Coppins, who earned top honors, winning her match in the 120-pound weight class, which was truly a memorable event for the young wrestler, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates Jaden Coppins of Colchester on her individual title victory at the inaugural New England girls' wrestling championship, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Jaden Coppins at Colchester High School.

### **H.C.R. 205**

House concurrent resolution celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Catamount Trail

Offered by: Representatives Nicoll of Ludlow, Anthony of Barre City, Boyden of Cambridge, Brownell of Pownal, Brumsted of Shelburne, Burke of Brattleboro, Buss of Woodstock, Chapin of East Montpelier, Chase of Chester, Cina of Burlington, Demrow of Corinth, Dodge of Essex, Dolan of Essex Junction, Dolan of Waitsfield, Farlice-Rubio of Barnet, Graning of Jericho, Harrison of Chittenden, Higley of Lowell, Howard of Rutland City, Jerome of Brandon, Krasnow of South Burlington, Logan of Burlington, McCann of Montpelier, Ode of Burlington, Pouech of Hinesburg, Priestley of Bradford, Roberts of Halifax, Shaw of Pittsford, Sheldon of Middlebury, and Taylor of Colchester

Whereas, in August 1982, while camping in the Worcester Range on a rainy night, three young Vermont friends—Steve Bushey, Paul Jarris, and Ben Rose—committed themselves to skiing the length of Vermont from Massachusetts to Quebec, and

Whereas, they were not mere idle dreamers, and, over the next two years, Steve Bushey, while writing his master's thesis at Carleton University in Ottawa, Ontario, identified a route for this proposed winter odyssey, and

Whereas, in February 1984, Steve Bushey and Ben Rose filed articles of association with the Secretary of State establishing the Catamount Trail Association; and, on February 29, 1984, these three daring adventurers, with the support of a fourth friend, the late Jim Painter, skied northward from

Whitingham to the Canadian port of entry adjacent to North Troy, where, on March 20, they presented themselves to Canadian Customs officers before returning to Vermont, and

Whereas, as the result of this 1984 project, the Catamount Trail Association (CTA) was born, and today it is a thriving Vermont recreational organization, voluntarily stewarding and managing the 31 sections of the Catamount Trail, and

Whereas, in commemoration of the Catamount Trail's 40th anniversary on February 8, 2024, Paul Jarris and Ben Rose, along with CTA section leaders Bob Brandt and Kevin Batson and CTA Board Chair Jay Stearns, who served as the group's videographer, set out to ski the current route of the Catamount Trail in an event named the Ruby Run, and

Whereas, insufficient snow north of Stowe halted the trip on March 3, 2024, but a 40th anniversary celebration, which Steve Bushey also attended, still occurred that day at the Trapp Family Lodge; and, in 2025, all three of the original skiers intend to traverse the remaining nine sections from Stowe to the Quebec border, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly celebrates the 40th anniversary of the Catamount Trail, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Catamount Trail Association.

### **H.C.R. 206**

House concurrent resolution honoring the professional achievements of child and victim advocate Sally Borden

Offered by: Representatives Rachelson of Burlington, Krasnow of South Burlington, LaLonde of South Burlington, Berbeco of Winooski, Bluemle of Burlington, Cina of Burlington, Dodge of Essex, Dolan of Essex Junction, Garofano of Essex, Headrick of Burlington, Houghton of Essex Junction, Krowinski of Burlington, Lalley of Shelburne, Logan of Burlington, Minier of South Burlington, Nugent of South Burlington, Ode of Burlington, Stebbins of Burlington, Stone of Burlington, and Waters Evans of Charlotte

Offered by: Senators Baruth, Chittenden, Gulick, Lyons, Ram Hinsdale, Vyhovsky, and Wrenner

Whereas, Sally Borden is a veteran advocate and leader at organizations advocating on behalf of the victims and survivors, and their families, of criminal acts, domestic violence, and child abuse and neglect, and

Whereas, she graduated with honors from the University of California at Davis and earned a master's degree from Cambridge College in Massachusetts, and

Whereas, her first professional role was as a victim-witness advocate at the Northwestern District Attorney's office in Northampton, Massachusetts, where she was subsequently promoted to a supervisory position, and

Whereas, Sally Borden's responsibilities as Director of Training at the Massachusetts Office of Victim Assistance entailed supervising statewide training for victim advocacy, and

Whereas, for several years, Sally Borden returned to California, where she served as the Executive Director of the Shelter Against Violent Environments Inc., an organization that provides support services for domestic violence victims and survivors and their children in Alameda County, California, and

Whereas, since 1998, Sally Borden has been associated with the KidSafe Collaborative in Burlington, which works to improve the response to child abuse and neglect, where she initially served as a project director, and, since 2001, as the organization's executive director, and

Whereas, Sally Borden has led or participated in many national and State panels and projects; is the recipient of several honors recognizing her professional excellence and exemplary community roles, including the Antonio B. Pomerleau Medal of Honor; and she is concluding her work at KidSafe Collaborative, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors the professional achievements of child and victim advocate Sally Borden, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Sally Borden and to the KidSafe Collaborative.

### **H.C.R. 207**

House concurrent resolution recognizing May 5–11, 2024 as National Correctional Officers and Employees Week in Vermont

Offered by: Representatives Roberts of Halifax, Arrison of Weathersfield, Bos-Lun of Westminster, Casey of Montpelier, Emmons of Springfield,



Galfetti of Barre Town, Headrick of Burlington, Laroche of Franklin, Maguire of Rutland City, Morrissey of Bennington, and Troiano of Stannard

Whereas, correctional institutions are central to the American criminal justice system, and their orderly, safe, and around-the-clock operation is dependent on the professionalism of the nation's correctional officers, and

Whereas, the duties of correctional officers in Vermont include providing security for residents and staff in correctional facilities, supervising all aspects of daily living, and fulfilling a mission to rehabilitate individuals and prepare them for successful reentry into the community, and

Whereas, correctional employees must also confront extraordinary on-the-job risks, including the occurrence of violence, the responsibility to provide life-saving emergency medical care, and the prevalence of issues such as substance addiction, chronic health conditions, and multigenerational trauma, and

Whereas, Vermont's Department of Corrections is unique in being administered under the Agency of Human Services and in its unified statewide system that serves both sentenced offenders and detained individuals awaiting trial, and

Whereas, statewide, the Vermont Department of Corrections has 12 community-based probation and parole field offices at which probation and parole officers and community correctional officers supervise sentenced individuals in the community, and

Whereas, both the federal executive and legislative branches have designated the first full week of May as National Correctional Officers and Employees Week, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly recognizes May 5–11, 2024 as National Correctional Officers and Employees Week in Vermont, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Commissioner of Corrections, to the superintendent of each State correctional facility, and to the Vermont State Employees' Association.

### **H.C.R. 208**

House concurrent resolution congratulating the Allard Lumber Company of Brattleboro on its 50th anniversary

Offered by: Representatives Burke of Brattleboro, Kornheiser of Brattleboro, and Toleno of Brattleboro

Whereas, the lumber industry has evolved to meet the demands of the 21st century, and the operations of the Allard Lumber Company of Brattleboro reflect these changes, and

Whereas, in 1974, Clifford Allard and his brother established the Allard Lumber Company on the farm of Robert Allard Sr., using a 100-year-old handset circle mill for sawing customized orders, and

Whereas, the sawmill and the company have since grown and diversified, with a far larger customer base, log yards in several states, and a staff of over 50 employees, and

Whereas, Allard Lumber Company now offers kiln drying, planing, and grading of lumber, as well as sawing services, and

Whereas, the Allard Lumber Company employs the most effective milling techniques, and the resulting waste products are used to dry lumber, heat buildings and kilns, and make mulch, as well as produce other wood products, and

Whereas, woodlot owners, school groups, and other organizations may arrange tours of the Allard Lumber facility in Brattleboro, and

Whereas, Trevor Allard, who serves on the board of the Vermont Forest Products Association, and his father are both respected regional leaders in the wood products industry, and

Whereas, a half century after its formation, the Allard Lumber Company remains a proud and thriving family-owned and -operated business, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the Allard Lumber Company of Brattleboro on its 50th anniversary, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Allard Lumber Company.

### **H.C.R. 209**

House concurrent resolution honoring Northfield Elementary School physical education instructor Michael Gonneville for his teaching excellence and for the establishment of the school's Walking Wednesdays

Offered by: Representatives Goslant of Northfield, Donahue of Northfield, Andriano of Orwell, Anthony of Barre City, Arsenault of Williston, Bartley of Fairfax, Brennan of Colchester, Brown of Richmond, Burditt of West Rutland,

Canfield of Fair Haven, Chapin of East Montpelier, Chesnut-Tangerman of Middletown Springs, Christie of Hartford, Clifford of Rutland City, Demar of Enosburgh, Dickinson of St. Albans Town, Dolan of Essex Junction, Dolan of Waitsfield, Galfetti of Barre Town, Garofano of Essex, Graham of Williamstown, Graning of Jericho, Gregoire of Fairfield, Hango of Berkshire, Harrison of Chittenden, Higley of Lowell, Hooper of Randolph, Hooper of Burlington, Hyman of South Burlington, Jerome of Brandon, Labor of Morgan, LaLonde of South Burlington, Laroche of Franklin, Marcotte of Coventry, Mattos of Milton, McCoy of Poultney, McFaun of Barre Town, Morgan of Milton, Morris of Springfield, Morrissey of Bennington, Notte of Rutland City, Oliver of Sheldon, Page of Newport City, Parsons of Newbury, Pearl of Danville, Peterson of Clarendon, Quimby of Lyndon, Shaw of Pittsford, Small of Winooski, Smith of Derby, Surprenant of Barnard, Taylor of Milton, Toof of St. Albans Town, Torre of Moretown, Whitman of Bennington, and Williams of Granby

Whereas, Mike Gonneville has taught physical education for 46 years at Northfield Elementary School, and he has coached numerous generations of students in soccer, hockey, golf, and life skills, and

Whereas, in 2007, he started Walking Wednesdays, which was one of the first walk-to-school programs in Vermont, and

Whereas, Walking Wednesdays encompasses a mile-plus stretch that starts at Norwich University's Sabin Field, proceeds down Main Street, and ends at Northfield Elementary School, and

Whereas, students of all ages participate by walking to school instead of riding on the bus or in personal vehicles, and

Whereas, Walking Wednesdays is based on a national initiative to encourage schools and communities to help youngsters increase their daily physical activity, and

Whereas, the school's healthy weekly endeavor has continued for 17 years, and it is one of the longest ongoing programs at Northfield Elementary School, and

Whereas, Walking Wednesdays has the support and involvement of community members, parents, grandparents, local businesses, and Norwich University, and

Whereas, Mike Gonneville finds the most rewarding part of Walking Wednesdays to be the regular stop in front of The Veterans' Place Inc., a residential facility on Vine Street, where, with hands on hearts, the students recite the Pledge of Allegiance with the Veterans, and the facility's director reports that residents "live for this moment" each week, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors Northfield Elementary School physical education instructor Michael Gonneville for his teaching excellence and for the establishment of the school's Walking Wednesdays, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Mike Gonneville, Northfield Elementary School Principal Denise Russell, and Central Vermont Supervisory Union Superintendent Matthew Fedders.

### **H.C.R. 210**

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2024 Grace Christian Lions Division IV championship boys' basketball team

Offered by: Representatives Morrissey of Bennington, Brownell of Pownal, Carroll of Bennington, and Corcoran of Bennington

Whereas, not unexpectedly, the top-seeded Danville Bears and the second-ranked Grace Christian Lions from Bennington met on the hardwood floor at Barre Auditorium to determine this year's Division IV boys' basketball crown, but most unusually, the Lions represented different nations, and the team members had never played together before this past fall, and, equally rare, their school's basketball program was only in its second season, and

Whereas, despite these seeming impediments to athletic success, the Lions proved to their Division IV opponents that the team was composed of talented players who worked well together even though English was not the primary language for some of the players, and

Whereas, during the first three quarters of play, the evenly matched squads exchanged the lead 13 times and were tied on eight occasions, and

Whereas, recognizing that the fourth quarter was decisive, the Lions coalesced to deliver a strong team performance, concluding the game with a 52-41 victory and the Division IV title, and

Whereas, the ecstatic Lions were Peter Hu, Danilo Ignjatovic, Wesley Welch, Max McGhee, Pavle Mikic, Jaiden Gile, Lazar Milosavljevic, Vojin Cosic, Logan Corrales, Aleksandar Zivanovic, and Baran Turan, and

Whereas, Head Coach Brian Bushee, assistant coaches Aimee Bushee and Jeff Welch, and team managers Aker Greenslet, Riley Welch, and Stevie Hill were all proud of this unique team's triumph, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the 2024 Grace Christian Lions Division IV championship boys' basketball team, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Grace Christian School.

### **H.C.R. 211**

House concurrent resolution designating April 11, 2024 as Tourism Economy Day at the State House

Offered by: Representatives Jerome of Brandon, Carroll of Bennington, Chase of Chester, Graning of Jericho, Marcotte of Coventry, Mulvaney-Stanak of Burlington, Nicoll of Ludlow, Priestley of Bradford, Sammis of Castleton, White of Bethel, and Williams of Barre City

Whereas, Vermont is a global destination for dining, lodging, art, history, and outdoor recreation, and this creates business opportunities, attracts new residents, and incentivizes Vermonters to stay, and

Whereas, tourism and hospitality are vital to the sustainability of rural and urban communities alike across all 14 of Vermont's counties, and

Whereas, according to the U.S. Travel Association, in 2023, tourists spent \$3 billion in Vermont, a \$200 million increase over the prior year, and

Whereas, the Vermont Department of Labor has reported that, through September 2023, 11.5 percent of the State's workforce was employed in the leisure and hospitality sector, consisting of 30,287 persons in accommodations and food services and 5,356 individuals in arts and recreation, and

Whereas, the Vermont Department of Taxes has estimated that through most of 2023, tourism-related tax revenue equaled \$417,300,000, and

Whereas, the Vermont Ski Areas Association tallied 4,134,832 skier visits for the season ending in the spring of 2023, a marked expansion over the 3,762,047 visits for the prior season, and

Whereas, meaningful representation and inclusion are essential to ensure that Vermont is welcoming to everyone so that all people, regardless of background, can experience the joy of visiting the State, and

Whereas, industry leaders embody destination stewardship as they center community values in their work, and

Whereas, the strong and positive impact of tourism on Vermont's economy is cause for great celebration, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly designates April 11, 2024 as Tourism Economy Day at the State House, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Commissioner of Tourism and Marketing, to the Vermont Chamber of Commerce, and to Ski Vermont.

### **H.C.R. 212**

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2024 Burlington-Colchester Division I championship SeaLakers girls' ice hockey team

Offered by: Representatives Austin of Colchester, Andrews of Westford, Berbeco of Winooski, Bluemle of Burlington, Brennan of Colchester, Chase of Colchester, Cina of Burlington, Headrick of Burlington, Hooper of Burlington, Krowinski of Burlington, Leavitt of Grand Isle, Logan of Burlington, Mattos of Milton, Morgan of Milton, Ode of Burlington, Rachelson of Burlington, Small of Winooski, Stebbins of Burlington, Stone of Burlington, Taylor of Milton, and Taylor of Colchester

Offered by: Senators Baruth, Chittenden, Gulick, Lyons, Mazza, Ram Hinsdale, Vyhovsky, and Wrenner

Whereas, when the top-seeded BFA-St. Albans Comets faced off against the third-ranked Burlington-Colchester SeaLakers, whose roster also includes players from Milton and Winooski, for the Division I girls' ice hockey title, the fans who were gathered at the University of Vermont's Gutterson Fieldhouse anticipated a great evening of exciting competition, and they were definitely not disappointed, and

Whereas, the Comets took an early lead, scoring the first period's only goal, but the second period told a different tale as a vigorous back-and-forth ensued, with the SeaLakers tying the score and then pushing ahead on a second goal, which BFA-St. Albans soon matched, and

Whereas, with the game tied 2-2, the challenge was on, and, at 13:32 into the second period, the SeaLakers proved ready to move, scoring the decisive—and the contest's final—goal for a sweet and well-deserved 3-2 victory, and

Whereas, the triumphant SeaLakers were Leah Boyd, Madison Bean, Bianca Flanagan, Camryn Poulin, Caroline Burdick, Austen Fisher, Fiona McHugh, Holley MacLellan, Ava Dallamura, Norra Moody, Hanna Coughlin, Brooks DeShaw, Abigail Wheeler, Annabelle Lekstutis, Ellie Young, Marzie Schulman, and Ana LaBelle, and

Whereas, the team’s thrilled coaches were co-head coaches Jamie Rozzi and Molly Beauregard and assistant coaches Matt Schofield and Maggie DiMasi, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the 2024 Burlington-Colchester Division I championship SeaLakers girls’ ice hockey team, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Burlington and Colchester High Schools.

### **H.C.R. 213**

House concurrent resolution congratulating the Vermont Housing Finance Agency on its 50th anniversary

Offered by: Representative Stevens of Waterbury

Whereas, every U.S. state and territory has an agency to finance the construction of affordable housing, and, on April 11, 1974, Governor Salmon signed the Vermont Housing Finance Agency Act, which became Act 260, and

Whereas, the Vermont Housing Finance Agency’s (VHFA) mission is to “finance and promote affordable, safe and decent housing opportunities for low- and moderate-income Vermonters,” and

Whereas, since 1974, VHFA has assisted 31,000 home buyers and supported the development of 9,600 affordable apartments, and

Whereas, VHFA is a strong partner to the lenders, municipalities, utilities, developers, real estate professionals, investors, and each branch of government, and

Whereas, several housing shocks—including the Great Recession, Tropical Storm Irene, COVID-19, an increasing number of natural disasters, inflation, and varying interest rates—put pressure on housing affordability, accessibility, and safety, and VHFA deftly navigated through these crises, and

Whereas, recently, VHFA rose to address the State’s evolving housing needs, launching several new programs, including expanding access to weatherization; paying off mortgage, utility, and tax arrearages; funding for-sale home construction; expanding employer-supported housing; and supporting first-generation homebuyers, and

Whereas, VHFA started the Vermont Housing Investment Fund in 2020, which has already added \$17 million in philanthropic, federal, and in-state funding to address critical housing funding gaps, and

Whereas, the Agency provides crucial data, tools, and resources for the State and local communities through its Vermont Housing Data website and regular publications, and

Whereas, VHFA operates through its values of integrity, innovation, belonging, and equity, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the Vermont Housing Finance Agency on its 50th anniversary, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the VHFA.