

No. R-124. Senate concurrent resolution congratulating the General Federation of Women's Clubs on its 125th anniversary.

(S.C.R.15)

By Senators Nitka, Campbell, and McCormack,

By Representative Devereux of Mount Holly,

Whereas, in 1889, the journalist Jane Cunningham Croly organized a meeting in New York City that attracted delegates from 61 women's clubs, and

Whereas, the group was organized formally in 1890 as the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC), and it adopted the motto, "We look for unity, but unity in diversity," and

Whereas, GFWC enhances the lives of others through its dedication to volunteer service, and

Whereas, today there are nearly 100,000 members in over 3,000 women's clubs in the United States and more than a dozen other nations, and

Whereas, the GFWC works locally to create global change through many activities including support of the arts, preserving natural resources, advancing education, and working toward world peace and understanding, and

Whereas, the organization has been a leader in the fight to end domestic violence, and in 2011, it established the GFWC Success for Survivors Scholarship, and

Whereas, in 2014, the 217 Vermont GFWC members volunteered nearly 6,000 hours and donated over \$5,000 to worthy causes, and

Whereas, parallel to the GFWC's international domestic violence efforts, in 1993, the Vermont GFWC created the Barbara Jean Barker Scholarship that awards scholarships to displaced homemakers, and

Whereas, Vermont GFWC also supports shelters for abused women and children as a response to domestic violence, and

Whereas, other Vermont GFWC projects include supporting food banks, mentor programs in schools, and Meals on Wheels, and

Whereas, in 1919, the Okemo Valley GFWC was established in Ludlow and has been a strong representative of the GFWC in Vermont for 96 years, and

Whereas, on April 24, 2015, the Okemo Valley GFWC will commemorate the GFWC's 125th anniversary at a celebratory event in Ludlow's Veterans Park gazebo, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the General Federation of Women's clubs on its 125th anniversary, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Okemo Valley GFWC in Ludlow and to the General Federation of Women's Clubs international headquarters in Washington, D.C.