

No. R-479. House concurrent resolution honoring the dedicated volunteers who are central to the success of Camp Daybreak.

(H.C.R.399)

Offered by: Representative Klein of East Montpelier

Offered by: Senators Cummings, Doyle, and Pollina

Whereas, since 1961, Camp Daybreak has provided a traditional camping experience to youngsters with social, emotional, and behavioral needs, and

Whereas, established as a joint project of the Northeast Kingdom Mental Health Service and the Vermont Church Council—since 1971, Camp Daybreak has been operated by the Vermont Association for Mental Health in cooperation with the State's community mental health centers, the Department of Mental Health, and the Vermont Ecumenical Council, and

Whereas, the campers are youngsters who would otherwise be largely unable to enjoy and benefit from a traditional summer camp's athletic, arts, and community activities, and

Whereas, the organizational factor facilitating the campers' successful summer adventure is Camp Daybreak's volunteer program, and

Whereas, each camper is assigned a full-time buddy, a high school or college student, who works exclusively with the camper to assist him or her in every aspect of the Camp Daybreak day, and

Whereas, these volunteers are dedicated and special young adults who recognize the pivotal contribution they are giving to make their camper's summer experience memorable, and

Whereas, before they begin their Camp Daybreak assignments, the volunteers complete a comprehensive training seminar that provides information about the different types of mental health conditions, developing behavioral interventions, and understanding the impact of abuse on a child's behavior and relationships, and

Whereas, volunteers often return for several summers, and some decide to pursue careers in either the education or mental health field, and

Whereas, it is not unusual for volunteers to develop friendships with their campers that continue for years after the week together at Camp Daybreak, and

Whereas, in 2016, Camp Daybreak marks the 55th season of this extraordinary partnership between its volunteers and campers, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors the dedicated volunteers who are central to the success of Camp Daybreak, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Camp Daybreak Director Dan Osman.