

No. R-132. House concurrent resolution designating April 2017 as the Month of the Military Child in Vermont.

(H.C.R.102)

Offered by: Representatives Head of South Burlington, Christie of Hartford, Howard of Rutland City, Scheuermann of Stowe, Smith of Derby, Stevens of Waterbury, Strong of Albany, Tate of Mendon, and Walz of Barre City

Whereas, military children encounter special challenges with families regularly transferred across the country and overseas and parents deployed to dangerous combat assignments, and

Whereas, unlike most youngsters in civilian families, military children must regularly acculturate to new schools and communities and adjust to being separated from their parents, and

Whereas, military children have always been a vital part of their soldier parents' lives, and

Whereas, in recognition of the contributions and sacrifices of military children, in 1986, U.S. Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger established the Month of the Military Child, a commemoration that has continued for over three decades, and

Whereas, the Vermont National Guard Child and Youth Program (VTNG CYP), as do its counterpart programs operated throughout the U.S. Armed Forces, seeks "to provide a supportive environment for children and youth through activities and events specifically designed to encourage personal growth, strength of character and moral development in peacetime and through the cycles of deployment," and

Whereas, in 2016, VTNG CYP oversaw over 700 hours of diverse programs for hundreds of youngsters, ranging from six to 17 years of age, whose parents serve in the Vermont Army or Air National Guard or on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces, and

Whereas, among these programs were seven overnight camping opportunities, the seventh Annual VTNG Family Camp, and the tenth annual Vermont Remembers Fun Run, and

Whereas, high school and college students, and AmeriCorps members contributed over 225 volunteer hours in support of VTNG CYP's activities, including the Region I Youth Symposium, and

Whereas, today, April 4, 2017, representatives of VTNG CYP are visiting the State House to remind everyone of this endeavor's special role in the lives of military personnel and their children, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly designates April 2017 as the Month of the Military Child in Vermont, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Vermont Adjutant and Inspector General Major General Steven Cray and to the Vermont National Guard Child and Youth Program.