

NO. R-9. SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING THE ALDRICH PUBLIC LIBRARY ON ITS CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY.

(S.C.R.1)

By Senators Doyle, Cummings and Scott,

By Representatives Koch, McDonald, McFaun and Poirier,

Whereas, Leonard Frost Aldrich, a prominent resident of Barre who wished to encourage the community's citizenry to read, bequeathed money to his hometown for the construction of a public library, and

Whereas, on September 22, 1908, a decade after Aldrich's death, and after an expenditure of \$39,000.00, a classical revival two-story structure of gray brick built on a granite foundation, with an entrance frieze depicting "The Passing of the Torch of Learning," opened in the center of Barre City as the Aldrich Public Library, and

Whereas, in 1910, the Woman's Christian Temperance Union established a library in East Barre that today serves as the Aldrich Library's East Barre Branch, and

Whereas, the Aldrich Public Library encourages "life-long learning and enjoyment by providing, in a welcoming atmosphere, access to books, reference materials and other current sources of information," and

Whereas, instilling a love of reading in children is an essential role for a public library, and the Aldrich Public Library achieves this mission through the carefully developed collection in its children's room, and

Whereas, the historical record of Barre City and Barre Town is made accessible in the Barre Archives that the library houses, and exhibits reflecting the municipalities' history are on display in the second floor gallery, and

Whereas, on October 10, 2006, the completed work on a major construction project, entailing expansion, modernization and historic restoration was dedicated at

the Aldrich Public Library as an exciting prelude to the library's embarking on its second century, and

Whereas, the results of this building endeavor include an 8,000-square-foot addition attached to the rear of the original building, much-improved handicapped access meeting all legal requirements, the introduction of new technology such as Internet access, CD-Rom playing capacity, an online catalogue. the opening of a new meeting room for both children and adults, and many elements of historic restoration that make the library a more inviting and attractive place to visit, and, not to be overlooked, improved parking facilities, and

Whereas, on September 21, 2008, the Aldrich Public Library held a festive 100th birthday celebration that opened with a bagpipe musical serenade and was followed with remarks from local dignitaries and many special events throughout the building, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the Aldrich Public Library on its centennial anniversary, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Karen Lane, Library Director at the Aldrich Public Library in Barre City.