

NO. R-14. SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION HONORING THE VERMONT DETACHMENT OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION AND WELCOMING THOMAS CISNA, ITS 41 NATIONAL COMMANDER, TO VERMONT.

(S.C.R.5)

By Senators Scott, Ashe, Campbell, Carris Cummings, Doyle, Illuzzi, MacDonald, Mazza, Miller, Racine and White,

Whereas, the Sons of the American Legion (SAL) was established in 1932 as an American Legion organization that consists of men and boys whose parents and grandparents served in the United States Military and who became eligible for American Legion membership, and

Whereas, the SAL's activities focus on preserving American traditions and values, caring for children and veterans and their families, working with veterans' health care and residential facilities, and, perhaps most importantly, teaching the fundamentals of good citizenship, and

Whereas, during the past decade, the SAL nationally has raised in excess of \$1 million for the American Legion Child Welfare League; and with respect to veterans' hospitals, it has donated almost \$1.5 million in either cash or gifts, made approximately 14,500 visits, and volunteered over 277,000 hours, and

Whereas, SAL membership in 2008 reached a record high of 325,000, and

Whereas, the Sons of the American Legion Detachment of Vermont (SAL Vermont) can be proud of its many outstanding accomplishments and its current and past leadership, including the now-serving Detachment Commander Frank L. Gabaree of Montpelier, and

Whereas, during the past decade, SAL Vermont has donated in excess of \$2 million to worthy programs for youth and veterans, and its members have volunteered their time on behalf of American Legion Baseball, the Children's Miracle

Network, Special Olympics, the Vermont Legionnaires Assistance Fund, Gifts for Yanks, and other important community activities, and

Whereas, SAL Vermont was the first veterans' organization to give financial support to the Dodge House in Rutland, which is the first transitional housing program for veterans in the state; and the SAL Vermont's 2008 annual contribution to Dodge House totaled \$12,000.00, and

Whereas, the many accomplishments of SAL Vermont have attracted attention beyond the state's borders, and Thomas Cisna, the organization's 41st National Commander, was pleased to accept the Vermont detachment's invitation to make an official visit during the American Legion's state midwinter conference to be held on January 23–25 at the Sheraton Burlington, and

Whereas, while in Vermont, National Commander Cisna will visit the Veterans' Administration Hospital in White River Junction, the Dodge House in Rutland, Fletcher Allen's Children's Miracle Network Hospital, and selected American Legion posts, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly is pleased to honor the Vermont Detachment of the Sons of the American Legion and welcomes Thomas Cisna, its 41st national commander to Vermont, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Frank Gabaree and to Thomas Cisna.