

NO. R-35 HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING
THE ROCKINGHAM FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY ON THE 100TH
ANNIVERSARY OF ITS RESIDENCY IN ITS CARNEGIE BUILDING
HOME.

(H.C.R. 19)

Offered by: Representatives Obuchowski of Rockingham, Partridge of
Windham, Deen of Westminster and Mrowicki of Putney

Whereas, for over two centuries, the citizens of Rockingham have
recognized the central role a library can play in a community, and

Whereas, in 1799, the Rockingham Library Society, the first of two library
societies established in the town, was established, and local residents could
purchase a share at the rate of \$1.00 per person, and

Whereas, on September 6, 1887, Rockingham's two library societies
merged to become the Rockingham Free Public Library, assuring library
services would be available to all of the town's inhabitants, and

Whereas, in 1888, after a successful fundraising drive, the newly established
public library opened on the first floor of the new Rockingham Opera House,
and

Whereas, within a few years of the 20th century's opening, the Rockingham
Public Library had expanded beyond the Opera House facility's capacity, and
the town's voters approved the purchase of a plot of land on Westminster
Street and the acceptance of a generous \$15,000.00 from the steel magnate and
famed library philanthropist, Andrew Carnegie, and

Whereas, on October 8, 1908, the cornerstone was laid for the new
Rockingham Free Public Library, and then, on November 23, 1909, the

building, one of four Carnegie-financed libraries that was constructed in Vermont, was dedicated, and

Whereas, two decades later, in 1929, the Rockingham Free Public Library opened a new children's room wing, and a further addition opened in 1950 that provided both an expanded children's room and a community meeting room, and

Whereas, 2009 marks the centennial of the still-much-appreciated and -cherished Rockingham Free Public Library's Carnegie edifice, and the community will celebrate this special anniversary at a townwide birthday party in November of this year, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the Rockingham Free Public Library on the 100th anniversary of its residency in its Carnegie Building home, and be it further

Resolved: That the secretary of state be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Rockingham Free Public Library.