

NO. R-45. HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE CELEBRATION IN THE TOWN OF ROCHESTER OF THE ASIAN LUNAR YEAR 4707.

(H.C.R.22)

Offered by: Representative Haas of Rochester

Whereas, according to ancient legend, 4707 years ago, Nian (meaning year in Chinese), the evil dragon, ravaged the countryside, spreading war and famine and consuming human beings for substance, until the emperor vanquished him, and Nian has never returned, and

Whereas, in celebration of this great triumph of good over evil, each year, the Chinese people, and others across east Asia and the world, sound gongs and beat drums to keep Nian away and assure that the new year will be one of peace, prosperity, and good fortune, and

Whereas, an essential aspect of the lunar year festivities is the commemoration of the Zodiac of 12 animals called by the Buddha, in which a rat, ox, tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, horse, ram, monkey, rooster, dog, and pig raced to his presence with the rat jumping off its perch on the ox to finish first, and

Whereas, each of these animals rotates annually as the new year's designated animal, and

Whereas, 2009 marks the 4707th commemoration of the emperor's triumph over Nian and is the year of the ox, and

Whereas, in order to create and promote a more culturally and socially diverse America and Vermont, an Asian American Lunar New Year

celebration will take place at the Rochester Public Library on Saturday, January 24 that will include story telling, an introduction to the Ox and what it means in this lunar year, and readings exploring the Asian American culture that has added its enthusiasm and contribution to American culture, and

Whereas, on Sunday, January 25, there will be an Asian food festival in Rochester where participants will be able to taste the cuisines of Asia, and

Whereas, the festivities in Rochester will encourage multicultural aspects of our society and create an atmosphere that encourages diversity and inclusiveness in Vermont and America, and

Whereas, these celebratory events will be a wonderful combination of cultural sharing and great fun, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly commemorates and extends best wishes to the 4707 Asian American Lunar Year celebration in Rochester, and be it further

Resolved: That the secretary of state be directed to send a copy of this resolution to John Wong in Rochester.