

No. R-156. House concurrent resolution honoring libraries, librarians and library workers during National Library Week.

(H.C.R.112)

Offered by: Representatives Copeland-Hanzas of Bradford and Johnson of South Hero

Whereas, throughout the 19th century, local libraries, opened to the community at large, were created in many Vermont towns and villages, and

Whereas, in accordance with 22 V.S.A. § 67, “it to be the policy of the state of Vermont that free public libraries are essential to the general enlightenment of citizens in a democracy,” and

Whereas, this same statute also provides that “the trustees, managers or directors of a public library may use library resources as a community center,” and “as forums and exhibition areas for the exchange of ideas that encourage the growth of artistic, educational, literary, and scientific knowledge,” and

Whereas, public libraries continue in 2009 to serve as the home of literary adventure and pleasure and as a public information resource, with their collections of nonfiction and fiction books of all genres, newspapers, magazines, and reference publications, and

Whereas, at the dawn of the digital age, there were persons who believed that libraries and librarians would no longer serve the central role they have played for generations, and

Whereas, quite the opposite has occurred as librarians have become guides, and public libraries gateways, to the emerging world of online information, and

Whereas, during these difficult economic times, public libraries have assumed an essential role as the place to turn for employment research and other vitally required information, and

Whereas, in celebration and recognition of the continuing importance of libraries in our society, the governor has designated the week of April 12–18 as National Library Week, and the Vermont State Board of Libraries designated April 14, 2009 as Library Workers Day, and

Whereas, throughout the United States, a special focus of this year's National Library Week observances is the Campaign for America's Libraries, and

Whereas, today, April 15, 2009, representatives from the Vermont Library Association and the Vermont Department of Libraries are observing National Library Week by visiting the state house and reminding everyone of the importance of public, school, academic, and special libraries, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors libraries, librarians, and library workers during National Library Week, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Vermont Library Association and to the Vermont department of libraries.