

No. R-223. Senate concurrent resolution congratulating the Caledonia Essex Ambulance Service on its 25th Anniversary.

(S.C.R.30)

By Senators Choate and Kitchel,

By Representatives Larocque of Barnet, Peaslee of Guildhall, Reis of St. Johnsbury and South of St. Johnsbury,

Whereas, the Caledonia Essex Ambulance Service (CALEX) is a private non-profit organization founded in 1984 when Northeastern Vermont Regional Hospital in St. Johnsbury divested itself of its ambulance service, and

Whereas, it is the primary Emergency Medical Service (EMS) provider for over 13,000 residents in an area of 250 square miles in the most rural part of Vermont, commonly called the Northeast Kingdom, specifically in the towns of St. Johnsbury, Waterford, Kirby, Concord, Victory, Granby, and Barnet, and

Whereas, over the years, CALEX has evolved from a volunteer service to one that now pays seven full-time and 18 part-time employees, and

Whereas, as the first emergency responder organization in Vermont's EMS District #5 to achieve licensure as a paramedic responder, CALEX now provides paramedic level care to all of the residents in its service area, and

Whereas, in 2008, CALEX responded to 2,237 calls at all hours of the day and night, and it provides the primary backup ambulance service for 14 surrounding towns and paramedic intercepts for 21 towns in Caledonia and Essex counties, and

Whereas, CALEX was the first EMS in its service area to employ a priority dispatching system, reducing its lights and siren response 50 percent since its

inception and contributing to an increased level of safety for responders, patients and all motorists in its service area, and

Whereas, as a leader in teaching public CPR and first-aid classes, CALEX has trained several thousand individuals in life-saving techniques, and

Whereas, since the year 2000, CALEX has been the recipient of awards in honor of its outstanding work, including Vermont Ambulance Service of the Year (2000 and 2008), Vermont EMS Leader of the Year (2001), Vermont Paramedic of the Year (2002), and the Governor's Award for Workplace Safety (2006), *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the Caledonia Essex Ambulance Service on its 25th anniversary, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Jay Wood, director of the Caledonia Essex Ambulance Service, the Northeast Kingdom Chamber of Commerce, the Vermont office of EMS and injury prevention at the Department of Health, Vermont Ambulance Association President Jim Finger, the chief executive officer of Northeastern Vermont Regional Hospital, Paul Bengtsen, and St. Johnsbury town manager Michael Welch.