

No. R-236. House concurrent resolution welcoming to the state house the participants in the Vermont National Guard state partnership with Macedonia and Senegal.

(H.C.R.156)

Offered by: Representatives Head of South Burlington, Acinapura of Brandon, Baker of West Rutland, Krawczyk of Bennington, Moran of Wardsboro, Ram of Burlington, Savage of Swanton, South of St. Johnsbury, Stevens of Waterbury and Weston of Burlington

Whereas, the National Guard's State Partnership Program (SPP) was established in 1993 to link individual states in the United States with democratic nations around the world in order to foster cooperation in mutually beneficial activities across all sectors of society, and

Whereas, there are now 62 nations participating in an SPP, and among the program's objectives are improving military interoperability between the military forces of the United States and a partner nation, assisting in the development of democratic institutions in the partner country, promoting the United States' humanitarian values, and fostering open market economies, and

Whereas, currently, two state partnerships are operating in cooperation with the Vermont National Guard, and

Whereas, a Vermont SPP was established in March 1995 between Vermont and Macedonia when the first Vermont military team arrived in that nation, and many more have since followed, and

Whereas, the SPP between Vermont and Macedonia evolved into a bilateral affairs office, and it is now a program within the Office of Defense Cooperation at the Pentagon, and

Whereas, the projects that have been conducted through the Vermont–Macedonia SPP have shown the Macedonian military how the U.S. military operates, assisted Macedonia in its preparation for NATO membership, and in a civilian context have focused on business and country marketing, operating a crisis management center, and management in the areas of higher education and environmental policy, and

Whereas, in May 2008, the Vermont–Senegal SPP relation was initiated, and a robust and dynamic relationship has emerged during the intervening months, and

Whereas, representatives of Vermont organizations, the State Department, the National Guard Bureau, the U.S. military’s African Command, the U.S. Naval Post Graduate School, and Senegal are participating in a three-day workshop being held May 6–8 in Essex, and

Whereas, this educational workshop will facilitate the exchange of ideas between Vermonters and Senegalese in both the military and civilian sectors, and

Whereas, representatives of the Vermont National Guard and from both Macedonia and Senegal are visiting the State House today, May 5, 2009, where they have an opportunity to see democracy in action, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly welcomes to the state house the participants in the Vermont National Guard state partnerships with Macedonia and Senegal, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send copies of this resolution to the Vermont National Guard and the visiting delegations from Macedonia and Senegal.