

**No. R-268. Senate concurrent resolution congratulating the citizens of Marshfield on the successful restoration and rededication of the Martin Covered Bridge.**

(S.C.R.32)

By Senators Doyle, Cummings and Scott,

By Representative Ancel of Calais,

*Whereas*, the Martin Covered Bridge, a wooden structure built of pine and spruce, was opened in 1890 to provide a convenient crossing of the Winooski River for farmer William Martin's agricultural goods, and

*Whereas*, Herman Townsend constructed the bridge, located just off the present day Route 2 near the Plainfield-Marshfield municipal line, for the then tidy sum of \$500.00, and

*Whereas*, for approximately half-a-century, from the 1920s to the 1970s, the Orton family owned the bridge and the farm on which it was located, and

*Whereas*, the Martin bridge, perhaps the last remaining covered span in Vermont built solely for agricultural purposes, and one of the few in the area that survived the 1927 flood, had deteriorated in recent decades, and

*Whereas*, in 2003, the bridge and the surrounding 72 acres were donated to the town of Marshfield, both preserving the land as scenic open space and setting the stage for a six-year historical restoration project, and

*Whereas*, structural engineer Nathan Phillips, recalling boyhood memories of fishing from the bridge, and his father, Richard Phillips, led a community effort to refurbish the Martin Bridge and retain a significant piece of Marshfield's agricultural, architectural and transportation history, and

*Whereas*, this community-based labor of love was financed with nearly \$300,000.00 worth of grants from the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board and the Agency of Transportation as well as \$20,000.00 raised locally, and

*Whereas*, DeWolfe Engineering, where Nathan Phillips is employed, donated hundreds of hours of labor and as much as possible of the original bridge was retained, and

*Whereas*, after having been lifted from its original concrete abutments in 2005 for the repair work, in the spring of 2009 the now-restored bridge was carefully reset at its original location, and

*Whereas*, on July 11, 2009, nearly 100 persons gathered for a celebratory rededication ceremony held on the Martin Bridge's 44-foot span, and at which Marshfield Selectboard Chair John Warshow described the bridge as a place "to remember and honor those who came before us ... and reflect upon the past," *now therefore be it*

***Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:***

That the General Assembly congratulates the citizens of Marshfield on the successful restoration and rededication of the Martin Covered Bridge, *and be it further*

***Resolved:*** That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Nathan Phillips, John Warshow, and the Marshfield town clerk.