

No. R-500. Senate concurrent resolution honoring Green Up Day on its 40th anniversary.

(S.C.R.52)

By All Members of the Senate,

By All Members of the House of Representatives

Whereas, in 1969, *Burlington Free Press* Reporter Robert S. Babcock Jr., proposed to Governor Deane Davis that the highway department, in coordination with a large number of volunteers, conduct a major trash removal project on Vermont's highways, and

Whereas, over the following year, Robert Babcock Jr., and a steering committee worked with Governor Deane Davis to develop a detailed proposal for the first Green Up Day, and

Whereas, Governor Deane Davis, in recognition of the role a concerted citizens' effort could contribute to beautifying Vermont's landscape and townscape, issued an executive proclamation designating April 18 as "Green Up Day," which Vermonters were urged to observe "by volunteering two hours of their time to rid the highways of litter and to green up their neighborhoods," and

Whereas, the General Assembly on March 10, 1970, adopted Joint Resolution No. R-79 in support of the governor's proclamation, and

Whereas, the first Green Up Day, during which the Interstate Highway System was closed for three hours, was an enormously successful event with 70,000 participants and the removal of 20,000 cubic yards of trash from the

Interstate and state highways, and at least another 20,000 cubic yards of trash from town highways, and

Whereas, 95 percent of the Interstate and state highway systems and 75 percent of all town highways were cleared of roadside trash, and

Whereas, in 1972, the General Assembly adopted Act No. 252, “An Act Relating to Beverage Containers and a Trash Removal Fund,” popularly known as “the bottle bill,” which Green Up Day helped to inspire, and

Whereas, Green Up Day continued to thrive in the subsequent years, and in 1979 became an independent nonprofit organization, and

Whereas, in 1980, a new and exciting element was added to Green Up Day with the inauguration of the annual poster contest that facilitates colorful and creative pictorial announcements that Green Up Day is upon us, and

Whereas, the first Saturday in May is now associated with our state’s highways’ and landscape’s annual community spring cleaning, better known as Green Up Day, and

Whereas, a celebration commemorating Green Up Day’s 40th anniversary was held on the afternoon of May 1 on the State House lawn, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates Green Up Day on its 40th anniversary, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Green Up Vermont in Montpelier.