

No. R-60. House concurrent resolution recognizing the celebration in the town of Rochester of the Asian Lunar New Year 4709.

(H.C.R.44)

Offered by: Representative Haas of Rochester

Whereas, according to ancient legend, 4709 years ago, Nian, the evil dragon, ravaged the countryside, spreading war and famine and consuming human beings for sustenance, until the emperor vanquished him, and Nian has never returned, and

Whereas, annually, the Chinese people and others across east Asia celebrate this victory of good over evil with the loud sound of gongs and the beating of drums to keep Nian away and assure that the new year will be one of peace, prosperity, and good fortune, and

Whereas, an essential aspect of the Asian Lunar New Year festivities is the commemoration of the Chinese zodiac, as beautifully explained in Stockbridge author Gregory Crawford's children's book *Animals in the Stars – Chinese Astrology for Children*, and

Whereas, the Chinese zodiac consists of 12 animals, including a rat, an ox, a tiger, a rabbit, a dragon, a snake, a horse, a ram, a monkey, a rooster, a dog, and a pig that all race to the Buddha's presence on his calling them, and

Whereas, over a 12-year cycle, each animal in the Chinese zodiac is honored as the animal associated with one of the 12 years, and

Whereas, 2011 marks the 4709th commemoration of the emperor's triumph over Nian and is the Year of the Rabbit, and

Whereas, in order to create and promote a more culturally and socially diverse America and Vermont, for several years, a group of local residents has organized an Asian Lunar New Year celebration in Rochester, and

Whereas, 4709, the Year of the Rabbit, will be celebrated in Rochester on February 6, and the events marking the occasion this year will consist of: a children's crafts session, featuring noisemakers, face painting, instruction in the creation of Origami, and much more; Gregory Crawford presenting a public reading of his work; the burning of wishes at Rochester's Skatespace with a Year of the Rabbit parade following immediately thereafter; a simulated indoor firecracker display to take place at the Rochester School auditorium; and the serving of Asian dishes at local restaurants, and

Whereas, the Rochester Asian Lunar New Year Festival is a much-anticipated intercultural community celebration, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly commemorates and extends best wishes to the Rochester Asian Lunar New Year celebration as it commemorates the beginning of 4709, the Year of the Rabbit, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Rochester Lunar New Year Committee.