

No. R-159. House concurrent resolution honoring the women and girls associated with the Wells River Congregational Church.

(H.C.R.112)

Offered by: Representative Conquest of Newbury

Whereas, women have long played a major role in Vermont's history, and

Whereas, one of the premier Vermont historians was Abby Hemenway, the editor of the five-volume local history compendium known as the *Vermont Historical Gazetteer*, and

Whereas, long before Edna Beard became the first woman to serve in the general assembly or Consuelo Northrup Bailey became Vermont's first woman speaker of the house and the first woman lieutenant governor in the country or Madeleine May Kunin became the state's first woman governor, Vermont women were serving as civic and educational leaders in their local communities, and

Whereas, since March 1987, Women's History Month has been observed in the United States to honor the many women whose societal contributions have left an enduring legacy for our state and nation, and

Whereas, March 8, 2011 marked the 100th anniversary of International Women's Day and is an official holiday in many nations, and

Whereas, women active in many community endeavors and young girls who aspire to follow in their footsteps deserve special recognition during Women's History Month, and

Whereas, the Wells River Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, has a tremendous history of supporting women and girls through an active women's fellowship, Sunday school, and numerous ministries and through electing women to serve as ministers, deacons, and trustees and to other leadership positions, and

Whereas, on Sunday, March 27, 2011, the Wells River Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, will pay tribute to women and girls whose dynamic lives contribute to the vibrancy and quality of life both in the church and in the greater Wells River community, and

Whereas, the Women and Girls' Day service will include the history of the congregation's women and girls that Mrs. Dorothy G. Stevens will share with the congregation of which her membership is entering its 81st year; support of a girl through the Gifted Girl Award; and encouragement for women and girls to pursue endeavors as societal leaders and innovators, whether those pursuits occur in a house of worship, a school, a town, a state, a nation, or an international community, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honor the women and girls of the Wells River Congregational Church, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Pastor Elizabeth J. A. Siwo-Okundi and the Wells River Congregational Church, United Church of Christ.