

**No. R-165. House concurrent resolution commemorating the 250th anniversary of the town of Hartford.**

(H.C.R.121)

Offered by: Representatives Bohi of Hartford, Christie of Hartford, Aswad of Burlington, Haas of Rochester, Jerman of Essex, McCullough of Williston, Mrowicki of Putney, Potter of Clarendon and Yantachka of Charlotte

Offered by: Senators Campbell, McCormack and Nitka

Whereas, on July 4, 1761, New Hampshire Governor Benning Wentworth issued a charter establishing the town of Hartford “Beginning at a White Pine Tree marked Opposite to the South West Corner of Labanon cros the river Connecticut,” and

Whereas, Hartford, West Hartford, Quechee, Wilder, and White River Junction (at the confluence of the Connecticut and White rivers) are the five villages of the town, and

Whereas, the village of Quechee, previously known as Quechy and Queechy, is centered on the Ottauquechee River whose powerful flow proved attractive for the construction of industrial mills, and the river created the visually panoramic Quechee Gorge, which today is a tourist destination, and

Whereas, Wilder is the site of dams and canal locks that served as a commercial infrastructure for 19th-century manufacturing, and

Whereas, railroad transportation in Vermont began in White River Junction with the inauguration of service to Bethel on June 26, 1848, and the village became a major rail center, and Interstates 89 and 91 now meet there as well, and

Whereas on the night of February 5, 1887, 31 persons perished after a Montreal-bound train derailment caused the Woodstock Bridge, a trestle spanning the White River, to catch fire and burn, an incident recalled in the song *The Montreal Express*, and

Whereas, shortly after the railroad first arrived, Colonel Samuel Nutt purchased the Grafton House in Enfield, New Hampshire and arranged for its dismantling and reconstruction in White River Junction as the Junction House, which was rebuilt following fires in 1878 and 1925, and continues to serve guests as the Hotel Coolidge, and

Whereas, from 1890 to 1928, White River Junction hosted the Vermont State Fair at a specially constructed site featuring a kite-shaped track, and

Whereas, during the 1920s, an ice flow in the White River was the setting for a Lillian Gish silent film that did not use special effects or stunt personnel, and

Whereas, the regional veterans medical center, a thriving artists' studio complex in the renovated Tip Top building, and the Center for Cartoon Studies each call the vibrant village of White River Junction home, and

Whereas, 2011 marks the 250th anniversary of the town of Hartford which remains a thriving community, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly commemorates the 250th anniversary of the town of Hartford, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Hartford town clerk.