

**No. R-181. House concurrent resolution congratulating the town of Springfield on its 250th anniversary.**

(H.C.R.135)

Offered by: Representatives Martin of Springfield and Emmons of Springfield

Offered by: Senators Campbell, McCormack and Nitka

Whereas, on August 20, 1761, Governor Benning Wentworth of the Province of New Hampshire issued a charter of incorporation for the town of Springfield, one of the first communities created on the Crown Point Road, whose boundaries started “at the North Easterly Corner of Rockingham at A Stake & Stones near the Bank of the Connecticut River in Hickup Meadow,” and

Whereas, the Eureka Schoolhouse, constructed between 1785 and 1790, is today the oldest one-room schoolhouse in Vermont and is a Vermont state historic site, and

Whereas, Noah Safford’s home was a stop on the Underground Railroad, and Springfield’s Wheelock G. Veazey was awarded the Medal of Honor for his bravery at the battle of Gettysburg, and

Whereas, early in the town’s history, the power of the Black River’s Comtu Falls helped power an industrial village that started with gristmills and sawmills and by 1900 had evolved into a national and international center for the machine tool industry that played a critical role in America’s World War II victory, and

Whereas, Springfield's residents can point with pride to the reuse of many of these structures, such as revitalization of the former Fellows Gear Shaper plant into a state-of-the-art medical center, and

Whereas, the new Edgar May Health and Recreation Center includes beautiful solar-heated swimming pools, and

Whereas, technically astute Springfield residents invented jointed dolls, sandpaper, and the spring clothespin, and

Whereas, Albert Gutterson won the gold medal in the long jump at the 1912 Olympics in Stockholm, and

Whereas, in politics, Springfield's James Hartness (1921–1923) and Joseph Johnson (1955–1959) served as governors of Vermont, and United States Senator Ralph Flanders moved to censure his fellow senator, Joseph McCarthy, helping to end McCarthyism in the nation's capital, and

Whereas, James Hartness was also an inventive amateur astronomer, and his personal observatory at the Hartness House and the nearby Stellafane Observatory are both listed on the National Registry of Historic Places and annually attract many amateur astronomers and telescope makers, and

Whereas, the classes at the Howard Dean Education Center, the artistic activities of one of Vermont's three state craft centers, and a popular recreational path are indicators of Springfield's vitality at 250 years young, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulate the town of Springfield on its 250th anniversary, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Springfield town clerk and to the Springfield Art and Historical Society.