

**No. R-283. Senate concurrent resolution honoring the historic preservation efforts of the Northfield Historical Cemetery Project.**

(S.C.R.25)

By Senators Doyle, Cummings and Pollina,

By Representatives Donahue of Northfield and Grad of Moretown,

*Whereas*, Stanton Richardson was among the earliest settlers of Northfield, having relocated from the southern Vermont town of Westminster in 1785, and

*Whereas*, Stanton Richardson, members of his family, and other early settlers were interred in a private cemetery (Richardson's Meadow) near the Dog River, for which the town of Northfield assumed administrative responsibility in 1811 through a legal arrangement which, according to the Northfield municipal land records, was effectively a long-term lease from Stanton Richardson to the town, and

*Whereas*, this small cemetery became Northfield's first town cemetery, a status it retained until 1823 when the buried remains, except for those belonging to the Richardson family, were removed, some to the Robinson Cemetery on East Hill, some to the Aldrich Cemetery on West Hill, and most to Mount Hope Cemetery, originally known as the Center Cemetery, and

*Whereas*, as the decades and centuries passed, the condition of this tiny wooden-fence-enclosed cemetery deteriorated to a deplorable state, and

*Whereas*, until recently, only a two-bullet-hole-infested slate gravestone, the top of which vandals had slivered off, still stood upright, and others had been knocked flat, probably from the onslaught of 1927 flood waters, and were partially covered from overgrown grass and weeds, and

*Whereas*, after a local resident wrote a letter to the *Northfield News*, bemoaning the poor condition of the cemetery, the Northfield Historical Society initiated a campaign and organized a committee to restore the town's original cemetery to a place of honor and dignity in the community, and

*Whereas*, with the special assistance of the building and grounds department at Norwich University, whose land surrounds the cemetery, Domenic Falzarano, David DeFelice, and local residents who have donated funds, the Northfield Historical Society Cemetery Project is progressing toward its financial and restoration goals, *now therefore be it*

***Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:***

That the General Assembly honors the historic preservation efforts of the Northfield Historical Society Cemetery Project, *and be it further*

***Resolved:*** That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Northfield Historical Society.