

No. R-66. House concurrent resolution congratulating the Vermont Historical Society on its 175th anniversary.

(H.C.R.36)

Offered by: Representatives Jerman of Essex, Devereux of Mount Holly, Marek of Newfane, Koch of Barre Town, McFaun of Barre Town, Poirier of Barre City, and Taylor of Barre City

Offered by: Senators Cummings, Doyle, and Pollina

Whereas, the origins of the Vermont Historical Society (VHS) date from 1838, when Senator Robert Harvey of Caledonia County introduced “An act to incorporate the Vermont Historical and Antiquarian Society,” which after temporarily languishing in the Senate quickly passed through the House and became law on November 5 of that year, and

Whereas, the purpose of the Society, as stated in its act of incorporation, was “collecting and preserving materials for the civil and natural history of the State of Vermont,” and the act envisioned the establishment of a library that would contain “books, papers, memorials, and other articles,” and

Whereas, the Society held its first meeting in October 1840 at which its constitution and bylaws were adopted, and

Whereas, it adopted the new name Vermont Historical Society in 1858, and

Whereas, in 1869, the General Assembly first appropriated funds to the Society, and

Whereas, the *Proceedings of the Vermont Historical Society*, its scholarly journal, in 1944 adopted the title *Vermont Quarterly*, and in 1954 it assumed another new title, *Vermont History*, and

Whereas, in the 1940s and 1950s, the Society began offering services to local historical societies and publishing newsletters on its activities, and

Whereas, in 1971, the society located its headquarters in the new Pavilion Office Building in Montpelier, where its facilities included a museum, a library, a formal reception room, and offices, and

Whereas, in 2000, the first of the popular Vermont History Expos was held at the Tunbridge Fairgrounds, and

Whereas, the Vermont History Center’s opening in 2002 as the Society’s new library and administrative center in the old Spaulding High School in Barre City facilitated the construction of the new Vermont Historical Society Museum in Montpelier, which opened in March 2004 with an exciting exhibit called “Freedom and Unity: One Ideal, Many Stories,” and

Whereas, in 2007, the Vermont Historical Society was presented the National Medal for Museum and Library Service, the nation’s highest recognition for a cultural organization, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the Vermont Historical Society on its 175th anniversary, and be it further

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