

No. R-89. House concurrent resolution commemorating the 250th anniversary of the Town of Jericho.

(H.C.R.59)

Offered by: Representatives Till of Jericho and Frank of Underhill

Whereas, on June 7, 1763 Royal New Hampshire Governor Benning Wentworth granted a charter for the town of Jericho with borders described as “Begining at the Southerly or South Easterly Corner of Essex at the Northerly side of Onion or French River (so called) from thence Easterly up said River so far as to make Six Miles on a streight Line,” and

Whereas, the first recorded white settlers were Roderick Messenger, Azariah Rood, and Joseph Brown, who emigrated from western Massachusetts in 1774, and

Whereas, the Brown family had the misfortune of twice being captured by Native Americans, being taken into Canada, sold to British officers at eight dollars per person, and held prisoner for three years, and

Whereas, Jericho was organized at a town meeting, which Vermont Supreme Court Justice John Fassett warned for March 22, 1786, and at which Lewis Chapin was elected Town Clerk, and

Whereas, on November 29, 1786, Jedidiah Lane was selected as the town’s first Representative to the General Assembly, and

Whereas, in 1788, the voters of Jericho turned to religious matters, electing John Russell to the office of “tythingman” to preserve good order during divine service and to make sure the Sabbath was observed, and

Whereas, in 1795, the legislature transferred 5,000 acres of Jericho, along with land from other surrounding towns, to create the new town of Richmond, and

Whereas, at a town meeting held on October 30, 1800, the electorate decided that “the town do not choose to have inoculation for the small pox set up in town this season,” and

Whereas, any rendition of Jericho’s history would be incomplete without mention of Wilson “Snowflake” Bentley, who advanced the knowledge of snowflakes and became world-renowned, and

Whereas, his scientific legacy can be viewed at the Jericho Historical Society’s Snowflake Bentley exhibit, and

Whereas, the citizens of Jericho are proud of their town and its history, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly commemorates the sestercentennial anniversary of the Town of Jericho, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Jericho Town Clerk and to the Jericho Historical Society.