

No. R-164. House concurrent resolution designating April 2013 as the month of the military child in Vermont.

(H.C.R.118)

Offered by: Representatives Cole of Burlington, Batchelor of Derby, Botzow of Pownal, Browning of Arlington, Burditt of West Rutland, Burke of Brattleboro, Buxton of Tunbridge, Champion of Bennington, Canfield of Fair Haven, Carr of Brandon, Christie of Hartford, Clarkson of Woodstock, Conquest of Newbury, Consejo of Sheldon, Copeland-Hanzas of Bradford, Corcoran of Bennington, Cross of Winooski, Cupoli of Rutland City, Dickinson of St. Albans Town, Donahue of Northfield, Donovan of Burlington, Ellis of Waterbury, Emmons of Springfield, Evans of Essex, Fay of St. Johnsbury, Feltus of Lyndon, French of Randolph, Gage of Rutland City, Gallivan of Chittenden, Goodwin of Weston, Grad of Moretown, Greshin of Warren, Heath of Westford, Hebert of Vernon, Higley of Lowell, Hooper of Montpelier, Hubert of Milton, Johnson of South Hero, Johnson of Canaan, Juskiewicz of Cambridge, Kitzmiller of Montpelier, Komline of Dorset, Krebs of South Hero, Krowinski of Burlington, Kupersmith of South Burlington, Lanpher of Vergennes, Larocque of Barnet, Lenes of Shelburne, Lippert of Hinesburg, Macaig of Williston, Malcolm of Pawlet, Marcotte of Coventry, Marek of Newfane, McCarthy of St. Albans City, McFaun of Barre Town, Michelsen of Hardwick, Mook of Bennington, Moran of Wardsboro, Mrowicki of Putney, Myers of Essex, Nuovo of Middlebury, O'Brien of Richmond, O'Sullivan of Burlington, Partridge of Windham, Peltz of Woodbury, Potter of Clarendon, Rachelson of Burlington, Ralston of Middlebury, Russell of Rutland City, Savage of Swanton, Scheuermann of Stowe, Shaw of Pittsford, Spengler of Colchester, Stuart of Brattleboro, Sweaney of Windsor, Terenzini of Rutland Town, Toleno of Brattleboro, Townsend of South Burlington, Trieber of Rockingham, Waite-Simpson of Essex, Webb of Shelburne, Wizowaty of Burlington, Wright of Burlington, Yantachka of Charlotte, and Zagar of Barnard

Offered by: Senators Ashe, Baruth, Benning, Bray, Campbell, Cummings, Doyle, Flory, Fox, French, Galbraith, Hartwell, Kitchel, Lyons, Mazza, McCormack, Nitka, Rodgers, Starr, White, and Zuckerman

Whereas, for the children of military personnel, the process of changing school systems and making new friends can recur repeatedly from kindergarten through 12th grade, and

Whereas, when military children are transferred to a new school system, incompatible academic requirements have the potential of causing major difficulties, especially in preparing for high school graduation, and

Whereas, as a legal response to the academic conflicts that may arise from military children frequently transferring school systems, Vermont and other states have adopted the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children, and

Whereas, military children can also encounter emotional challenges, ranging from the necessity to sever bonds with classmates and build new friendships to coping with the stress associated with parental overseas combat deployment, and

Whereas, nationwide, Operation: Military Kids (OMK), which in Vermont is administered through the University of Vermont Extension and its 4-H program, helps these children adjust to situations that other youngsters do not experience, and

Whereas, the 2012 Vermont OMK reported that 185 volunteers contributed 965 hours to working with OMK youngsters and that 67 support programs reached 390 military children, and

Whereas, OMK is also an information service for the broader community, offering “Ready, Set, Go” trainings about the effect on children of parental deployments and general information sessions on OMK programs, and

Whereas, military parents whose children participate in OMK have responded favorably to the program’s impact on their children’s lives, and

Whereas, OMK children, along with Vermont OMK Coordinator Stephanie Atwood of the University of Vermont Extension are visiting the State House today, and

Whereas, nationally, April is being observed as the month of the military child, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly designates April 2013 as the month of the military child in Vermont, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Operation: Military Kids at the University of Vermont Extension.