

**No. R-181. House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2013 Vermont Prudential Spirit of Community Award Winners.**

(H.C.R.129)

Offered by: Representatives Pugh of South Burlington, Head of South Burlington, Kupersmith of South Burlington, Macaig of Williston, McCullough of Williston, and Townsend of South Burlington

Whereas, annually, Prudential Financial and the National Association of Secondary School Principals present the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards to secondary school students for their exemplary volunteerism, and

Whereas, Neel Desai and Michaela Forgione were designated as the 2013 Vermont State Honorees, will each receive a \$1,000.00 award and an engraved silver medallion, and will compete for national recognition at an all-expense-paid event this spring in Washington, D.C., and

Whereas, Neel Desai, a South Burlington High School senior, attended a student leadership conference in central Europe and returned home looking for a way to serve his community, and

Whereas, he established a nonprofit organization, Teach for Tomorrow, that teaches computer skills at workshops conducted at the local public library, and

Whereas, his partners and he received a grant to finance six workshops, and one session featured Senator Leahy addressing the group via Skype, presenting his thoughts on technology, and

Whereas, Michaela Forgione of South Burlington, a seventh-grader at Mater Christi School, regularly helps to feed the hungry and visits a local nursing home, and

Whereas, she asked friends to give her grocery store gift cards for her birthday and used the \$600.00 worth of cards to feed the hungry, and she organized a dancing jigathon, raising \$300.00 plus for the family of a young boy paralyzed in a swimming accident, and

Whereas, Thomas Watson of Williston, a freshman at Champlain Valley Union High School, and Samantha Wulfson of South Burlington, a senior at South Burlington High School, were each named a Vermont's Distinguished Finalist and will each receive an engraved bronze medallion, and

Whereas, Thomas Watson trained nearly 400 persons, including the Governor, on how to conduct hands-only CPR, and

Whereas, Samantha Wulfson cofounded Vermont Dream Project, Inc., which provides tennis rackets and sneakers to children across the nation who otherwise would not be able to afford to play tennis, and

Whereas, each of these students is to be commended for his or her voluntary initiative and commitment to improve the lives of others, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates each of the 2013 Vermont Prudential Spirit of Community Award winners, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to each student honored in this resolution.