

No. R-405. House concurrent resolution honoring World War II veteran Walter Berry of East Concord.

(H.C.R.295)

Offered by: Representative Quimby of Concord

Offered by: Senators Rodgers and Starr

Whereas, the nation's World War II veterans fought bravely in a conflict supported broadly on the home front, and

Whereas, evidence of this support was the large number of Vermont high schoolers who enlisted in the military prior to graduation, and left to serve their country at this time of national peril, and

Whereas, one of these young Vermont men was Walter Berry of East Concord, who, in 1943, left St. Johnsbury Academy as a junior to join the U.S. Navy, and

Whereas, upon completion of his naval training, Walter Berry was assigned to the initial crew of the U.S.S. Alaska, and

Whereas, Walter Berry served as a signalman, and was one of 2,300 members of the crew, and

Whereas, the U.S.S. Alaska was assigned to the Asia-Pacific Theater where the cruiser helped protect the U.S. fleet from Japanese air attacks, supported the invasion of Iwo Jima, and fought in the Battle of the Mariana Islands, and

Whereas, no American sailors perished during Walter Berry's stationing on this ship, and

Whereas, following his discharge from the U.S. Navy, Walter Berry returned home and served for several years in the U.S. Naval Reserve, and

Whereas, St. Johnsbury Academy has awarded a diploma to Walter Berry and other veterans who left the school to serve during World War II, and

Whereas, Honor Flight New England, a nonprofit organization based in Hooksett, New Hampshire, honors veterans with a trip to the war memorials in Washington, D.C., and

Whereas, on June 16, 2013, Walter Berry, now 89 years of age, was part of an honor flight contingent that began with a motorcade from the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Manchester, New Hampshire, to the local airport, and

Whereas, while touring the National World War II Memorial, they were serenaded by a band playing patriotic songs, and throughout the group's stay in Washington, D.C., members of the public offered standing ovations of appreciation, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors World War II veteran Walter Berry of East Concord, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Walter Berry.