

No. R-428. House concurrent resolution commemorating the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Plattsburgh and honoring those who fought on Lake Champlain's western shore.

(H.C.R.318)

Offered by: Representatives Devereux of Mount Holly, Jerman of Essex, Marek of Newfane, Branagan of Georgia, Cole of Burlington, Donovan of Burlington, Krebs of South Hero, Krowinski of Burlington, McCormack of Burlington, O'Sullivan of Burlington, Pearson of Burlington, Rachelson of Burlington, Ram of Burlington, Wizowaty of Burlington, and Wright of Burlington

Offered by: Senators Ashe, Baruth, Lyons, Mazza, Sirotkin, Snelling, and Zuckerman

Whereas, in early September 1814, British land and naval forces invaded the United States of America, moving south from British territory on and along Lake Champlain, and

Whereas, veterans of the Napoleonic Wars formed part of the 10,000-man British Army, and

Whereas, the powerful British fleet included the 36-gun *Confiance*, the largest warship ever to ply Lake Champlain, and

Whereas, Thomas Macdonough's newly constructed American fleet awaited the British Navy, and

Whereas, when Vermont learned the British were coming, militia units quickly assembled and headed for Plattsburgh, crossing the lake in all manner of vessels to report to Vermonter Samuel Strong, and

Whereas, the British attacked on the morning of September 11, 1814, and

Whereas, Macdonough's fleet was in line of battle behind Cumberland Head, in Plattsburgh Bay, and

Whereas, the British Infantry crossed Saranac River, and 4,500 Americans, 2,500 of them being Vermonters, met them in combat, and

Whereas, after three hours of a bloody and thunderous naval engagement, the British fleet surrendered, and

Whereas, when word of the naval defeat reached the British Army, it disengaged and began a northward retreat across the international border, and

Whereas, Macdonough messaged the U.S. Navy Department, "The Almighty has been pleased to grant us a signal victory on Lake Champlain . . . ," and

Whereas, the Battle of Plattsburgh was the War of 1812's decisive battle, and

Whereas, Vermonters' brave response to the invasion was a key to victory at Plattsburgh, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly commemorates the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Plattsburgh and honors those who fought on Lake Champlain's western shore, and be it further

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