

No. R-432. House concurrent resolution designating April 23, 2014 as Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans Honor and Appreciation Day and recognizing their service and sacrifice on behalf of our nation.

(H.C.R.322)

Offered by: All Members of the House

Offered by: All Members of the Senate

Whereas, the years of the Iraq and Afghanistan military conflicts have been especially difficult for the numerous Americans who have served in these countries since September 11, 2001, and

Whereas, many Vermont service personnel have been deployed to these countries on multiple tours of duty, and

Whereas, the families of our service personnel have experienced great anxiety during their family members' deployment, and

Whereas, American soldiers have been engaged in consistent combat under extremely trying conditions, and when they have returned home, many have struggled with significant instances of posttraumatic stress syndrome, traumatic brain injury, depression, or a combination of these medical conditions, and

Whereas, according to the U.S. Department of Defense, American military fatalities in Iraq totaled 4,410, and the comparable number for Afghanistan is 2,310 as of April 8, 2014, and

Whereas, according to Professor William Estill of Norwich University, who has been tracking Vermonter's participation in these conflicts since September 11, 2001, of the 3,125 Vermonters who have served, 41 have died, and

Whereas, it is especially important to remember those American military personnel, both from Vermont and across the United States, who have made the ultimate sacrifice when called to serve their nation in Iraq and Afghanistan, and

Whereas, it is fitting to pay tribute and express our many thanks to all of the Vermonters who have served in Iraq, and have served or are currently serving in Afghanistan, and their families, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly designates April 23, 2014 as Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans Honor and Appreciation Day and recognizes their service and sacrifice on behalf of our nation, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Vermont Adjutant and Inspector General Steven Cray; the Governor's Veterans Advisory Council; the Vermont Office of Veterans Affairs; the U.S. Air Force, U.S. Army, U.S. Marine Corps, and U.S. Navy Burlington area recruiting offices; and the U.S. Coast Guard Station in Burlington.