

No. R-500. House concurrent resolution congratulating the Bennington Fire Department on its 50th Bennington Battle Day Parade.

(H.C.R.377)

Offered by: Representatives Morrissey of Bennington, Campion of Bennington, Corcoran of Bennington, and Mook of Bennington

Offered by: Senators Hartwell and Sears

Whereas, on August 16, 1777, the Revolutionary War's Battle of Bennington was fought along the shore of the Walloomsac branch of the Hoosac River, and it preserved Continental Army control of a provisions depot 10 miles away in Bennington (site of the Bennington Battle Monument), and

Whereas, although the Battle of Bennington was fought in New York State, it has long been celebrated as a Vermont holiday, and

Whereas, in 1952, John Proud and Francis (Mike) Walker organized the modern Bennington Battle Day Parade, one having been held in 1877, with financial assistance from the Bennington Eagles, and

Whereas, in 1956, the Bennington Jaycees assumed responsibility, and

Whereas, in 1964, when the Bennington Jaycees decided to conclude its parade role, Joe Wassick, Erwin Mattison, and Charles Sawyer of the Bennington Fire Department volunteered to assume this duty, and

Whereas, the firefighters wisely asked the original organizers, with the support of Ormal Pierce as treasurer, to oversee parade operations, and

Whereas, the parade began modestly and through the decades has evolved into a summertime extravaganza, including as many as 70 fire departments, 20 bands, multiple floats, rescue squads, youth sports teams, horses, and numerous other marching units, and

Whereas, John Proud remained parade chair until 1985, and Ed Maroney, Jim Santarcangelo, and, since 1997, Richard Knapp have ably directed the parade's operation, and

Whereas, the 2014 Bennington Battle Day Parade will be the 50th under the Bennington Fire Department's auspices, and Steve Crawford is serving as the parade committee's general chair, and

Whereas, this year's parade will take place on Sunday, August 17, 2014 and Richard Knapp will serve as grand marshal, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the Bennington Fire Department on its 50th Bennington Battle Day Parade, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Bennington Fire Department.