

**No. R-166. House concurrent resolution congratulating Dismas House of Rutland on its 25th anniversary and its commemorative dinner honorees.**

(H.C.R.123)

Offered by: Representative Russell of Rutland City

Whereas, the mission of Dismas of Vermont is to reconcile prisoners with society and society with prisoners, and

Whereas, this valuable program of reconciliation exist at Vermont Dismas Houses located in Burlington, Rutland, and Winooski, and

Whereas, each Dismas House serves as a mutually supportive community hosting former prisoners in transition from incarceration and college students who are also in transition in their lives, and

Whereas, at a Dismas House, there is a spirit of open and participative decision-making that emphasizes reaching a consensus, and

Whereas, an international Volunteer for Peace is often also living at a Dismas House on a three-to-six month temporary residency, and

Whereas, the daily evening meal serves as a central activity for each day, and

Whereas, the Dismas House of Rutland was established in 1990 and in 2015 is marking a quarter century of promoting reconciliation and forgiveness, and

Whereas, in commemoration of this milestone, the Dismas House of Rutland is holding a 25th anniversary dinner and auction on Sunday, May 3, 2015, at the Holiday Inn in Rutland, and

Whereas, over 40 items will be offered in a live auction with the proceeds benefiting the Dismas House of Rutland, and

Whereas, the evening will include the presentation of the 2015 Father Jack Hickey O.P. Award, named for Father Jack Hickey O.P. the national founder of the Dismas movement, and

Whereas, this award recognizes individuals whose commitment to the Dismas movement has been significant and of an extended duration, and

Whereas, the 2015 recipients of the Father Jack Hickey O.P. Award are Carol and Joe Barbagallo, veteran Rutland community volunteers and longtime donors to and volunteers at the Dismas House of Rutland, and

Whereas, also being honored are St. Peter's Parish Back Pack Program as the Mary O' Award winner and the Windham Congregational Church with the Loving Spoonful Award, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates Dismas House of Rutland on its 25th anniversary and its commemorative dinner honorees, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Dismas House in Rutland and to the three award recipients.