

**No. R-195. Senate concurrent resolution congratulating the Union Elementary School on its 75th birthday.**

(S.C.R.18)

By Senators Doyle, Cummings, and Pollina,

By Representatives Hooper of Montpelier and Kitzmiller of Montpelier,

*Whereas*, according to Perry Merrill's *Montpelier: The Capital City's History: 1780–1976*, the first school in Montpelier was a log house built in 1784, and

*Whereas*, the direct ancestor of Union Elementary School was the Union District House and Academy, located on School Street and completed in the summer of 1859, and

*Whereas*, a new elementary school opened on East State Street in 1901, and

*Whereas*, since 1939, the current Union Elementary School (UES) has stood proudly, at the intersection of School Street and Park Avenue, as Montpelier's gateway to public education, and

*Whereas*, during the school day, youngsters brimming with anticipation discover the joys of learning, and

*Whereas*, unlike in earlier decades, kindergarten has evolved into a more structured educational experience featuring personal development, literacy, math, and writing curriculum components, and not merely play-centered activities, and

*Whereas*, as children progress through grade five, the UES faculty introduces them to increasingly more sophisticated academic challenges, and

*Whereas*, reading, writing, and arithmetic do not encompass the entire day as UES has innovative art, music, and physical education offerings, including an outdoor winter obstacle course for the youngsters to complete, and

*Whereas*, the 2014–2015 school year marks UES's 75th birthday, and the highlight of the festivities was the merging of the UES birthday party and annual winter carnival in February 2015, and

*Whereas*, on February 18, 2015, the school hosted a pizza dinner, and following the meal, an estimated 1,000 persons, including parents, staff, students, teachers, and members of the community carried lanterns, made in Kristine Kane's art class under the direction of UES' artist-in-residence Gowri Savoor, through the city to the commons on College Street where a giant celebration featuring fireworks took place, and

*Whereas*, other 75th birthday commemorative events include a museum of clothing and artifacts from the 1930s–1940s and a video entitled "A History of Union Elementary School," *now therefore be it*

***Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:***

That the General Assembly congratulates the Union Elementary School in Montpelier on its 75th birthday, *and be it further*

***Resolved:*** That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Union Elementary School.