

**No. R-212. House concurrent resolution commemorating Vermont's role in the Civil War during 1865.**

(H.C.R.158)

Offered by: Representatives Devereux of Mount Holly, Branagan of Georgia, and Jerman of Essex

Whereas, as March became April in 1865, Ulysses Grant had tried for nine months to break the formidable lines defending the Confederate capital of Richmond and its railroad center, Petersburg, and

Whereas, finally, a weakness was detected in the rebel lines near Petersburg, and

Whereas, in the early morning of April 2, 1865, the Army of the Potomac's 14,000-member Sixth Corps massed in darkness in front of the Confederate earthworks, and

Whereas, at dawn's first light, a cannon of the Third Vermont Battery signaled the Union forces to commence the attack on the rebel earthworks, and

Whereas, leadership of the attack was assigned to the First Vermont Brigade, which proceeded forward under heavy artillery fire, and

Whereas, Captain Charles Gould of Windham was at the front of the Sixth Corps and was the first Union soldier to breach the rebel earthworks, and

Whereas, he sustained multiple wounds during the assault and for his bravery was awarded the Medal of Honor, and

Whereas, this attack eventually forced Confederate General Robert E. Lee to abandon both Petersburg and Richmond, and

Whereas, the Vermont-led Petersburg breakthrough was the decisive event culminating in Lee's surrender at Appomattox and, for all intents and purposes, the Civil War's conclusion, and

Whereas, it is worthy of note that Medal of Honor recipient General Lewis Addison Grant, a Vermonter who played a leadership role in this final Civil War battle and had developed extensive military expertise, would later serve as the U.S. Assistant Secretary of War from 1890–1893, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors all the Vermont soldiers who fought in the Civil War and who are well remembered for their outsized part in achieving a Union victory in 1865 and a new birth of freedom for the United States, and be it further

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