

No. R-293. House concurrent resolution commemorating the 125th anniversary of the Bennington Battle Monument.

(H.C.R.220)

Offered by: Representatives Devereux of Mount Holly, Branagan of Georgia, Corcoran of Bennington, Fields of Bennington, Jerman of Essex, Morris of Bennington, and Morrissey of Bennington

Offered by: Senators Sears and Campion

Whereas, the Revolutionary War's Battle of Bennington is closely associated with Vermont, even though the battle was fought across the border in Walloomsac Heights, New York, and

Whereas, in the summer of 1777, two brigades of British forces, under the command of British General John Burgoyne, were seeking to isolate New England militarily from the rest of the United States, and

Whereas, Burgoyne's forces, having suffered a tactical loss to American forces at the Battle of Hubbardton, were marching southbound toward Saratoga, New York, and a decisive defeat to come in October, 1777, and

Whereas, more immediately, in need of military stores and general supplies, the British, who had support from German mercenaries, Indians, and loyalists, learned of a supply depot in Bennington and headed in that direction, and

Whereas, the Council of Safety of the newly established Republic of Vermont sought to halt this British advance and solicited military support from the State of New Hampshire, and

Whereas, the independence forces appointed former Continental Army Colonel John Stark as a Brigadier General directed to lead local independence forces in this effort, and

Whereas, on August 16, 1777, General Stark led a combined contingent of soldiers from Vermont, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire that twice defeated the British, the second time with the welcomed assistance of Vermonters Seth Warner and the Green Mountain Boys, and

Whereas, in August 1887, the cornerstone was laid for the Bennington Monument, an imposing obelisk towering over Bennington, situated at the site of the elusive 1777 military stores and intended to commemorate the great Vermont victory at the Battle of Bennington, and

Whereas, the capstone was set in place in November of 1889, and

Whereas, in 1891, the over-306-foot-high Bennington Monument, the tallest structure in Vermont, containing 412 steps, was dedicated, and

Whereas, numerous visitors have marveled at the magnificent view from the observation platform at the top of the monument, and

Whereas, 2016 marks the Bennington Monument's 125th anniversary, and it is being celebrated with the installation of a much-needed new elevator to transport visitors to the platform, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly commemorates the 125th anniversary of the Bennington Battle Monument, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send two copies of this resolution to the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation.