

No. R-380. House concurrent resolution designating April 2016 as the Month of the Military Child in Vermont.

(H.C.R.290)

Offered by: Representatives Head of South Burlington, Gonzalez of Winooski, Lucke of Hartford, Morrissey of Bennington, Savage of Swanton, Stevens of Waterbury, Tate of Mendon, and Walz of Barre City

Whereas, in the State of Vermont, where there are no military bases to connect the children of military personnel, these youngsters can be invisible to coaches, teachers, and the community, and

Whereas, military personnel are relocated frequently, and moving can result in both academic and social challenges for their children, and

Whereas, regardless of their grade, military children entering a new school system must adjust to different and, possibly, incompatible curriculums; become acquainted with new surroundings; and form new friendships, and

Whereas, in 2011 Acts and Resolves No .43, the General Assembly adopted the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children that addresses the academic aspects of military children's frequent relocations, and

Whereas, the Vermont National Guard has implemented and promotes the Vermont National Guard (VTNG) Child and Youth Program in accordance with guidance from the National Guard Bureau, and

Whereas, the VTNG Child and Youth Program assists Vermont's military youth in adjusting to situations other children do not experience, and

Whereas, for 2015, the VTNG Child and Youth program reported 755 programming hours were provided, including day and overnight camping opportunities, that reached 689 Army and Air National Guard children, and

Whereas, the VTNG Child and Youth Program also educates the broader civilian community on the effect of parental deployments for military children, and

Whereas, military parents whose children participate in VTNG Child and Youth program have responded favorably to the program's impact on their children's lives, and

Whereas, nationally, April marks the nation's "Month of the Military Child," a time to honor those youth military deployment has affected, and

Whereas, today, April 5, 2016, Vermont Army and Air National Guard families, along with staff from the VTNG Child and Youth Program, are visiting the State House, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly designates April 2016 as the Month of the Military Child in Vermont, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Vermont National Guard Child and Youth Program.