

**No. R-470. House concurrent resolution honoring the Vermont youth baseball team on its historic journey to Havana, Cuba.**

(H.C.R.390)

Offered by: Representatives Pearson of Burlington, Baser of Bristol, Bissonnette of Winooski, Cole of Burlington, Dame of Essex, Donovan of Burlington, Evans of Essex, Gonzalez of Winooski, Jerman of Essex, Krowinski of Burlington, Lenes of Shelburne, Lippert of Hinesburg, McCormack of Burlington, Myers of Essex, O'Sullivan of Burlington, Rachelson of Burlington, Ram of Burlington, Sharpe of Bristol, Sullivan of Burlington, Webb of Shelburne, and Wright of Burlington

Whereas, baseball was introduced to Cuba approximately 150 years ago and is as much a national pastime in that country as in the United States, and

Whereas, although a team of young New Hampshire and Vermont baseball players journeyed to Cuba in 2008, such trips remain unusual, and

Whereas, the recent reestablishment of diplomatic relations between the United States and Cuba has created a more favorable climate for American athletic teams to visit the island nation, and

Whereas, in March, the Major League Tampa Bay Rays played the Cuban national team in Havana in a game that both President Obama and Cuban President Castro attended, and

Whereas, extending this recent precedent to an ad hoc team of 11- and 12-year-old youth baseball players from Burlington, Essex, Shelburne, and Bristol traveled the week of April 17, 2016 to Havana for a series of five games with Cuban youth players, and

Whereas, Jim Carter, the faculty advisor and coach of the University of Vermont club baseball team, organized the trip and served as the Vermont team's manager, and

Whereas, Burlington attorney Tom Simon, one of the assistant coaches, worked with the Cuban American Friendship Society to arrange for the required American legal clearance and to arrange for the team's Havana schedule of games and cultural activities, including meals with Cuban families, and

Whereas, the youngsters brought baseball uniforms and equipment to give to their Cuban counterparts, and

Whereas, in a pre-departure event, Senator and Mrs. Leahy visited the team in Burlington and gave the youngsters an American flag to bring to Cuba, and

Whereas, the Vermonters, whose baseball games are now recorded in American diplomatic history, are Tate Agnew, Eli Bostwick, Andrew Goodrich, William Gumbrell, Anna Jenemann, Ozzie Kost, Carter Monks, Cyrus Perkinson, Ollie Pudvar, August Rinehart, and Nolan Simon, and

Whereas, Dave Bostwick and Jeff Goodrich also served as assistant coaches, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors the Vermont youth baseball team on its historic journey to Havana, Cuba, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to each coach and player honored in this resolution.