

State of Vermont

House of Representatives



Montpelier, Vermont

Concurrent House Resolution

H.C.R. 182

House concurrent resolution commemorating the opening of the eighth Brookfield Floating Bridge

Offered by: Representatives French of Randolph and Ryerson of Randolph

Offered by: Senator MacDonald

Whereas, in 1813, in the town of Brookfield, Daniel Belknap drowned after falling through the thin ice surface of Sunset Lake, previously named Colt's Pond, and

Whereas, during the winter of 1820, in an effort to avoid a repeat of this tragedy, Luther Adams and fellow town residents built the first floating bridge, when they laid logs across the frozen lake and bound them together, and

Whereas, over nearly two centuries, six successor bridges were built as replacement spans, and

Whereas, Reuben Peck built the second bridge in 1839 for \$29.15, and John Herrick oversaw construction of the third bridge in 1869, following much controversy over replacing the bridge or alternatively building a road around the north end of the lake, and

Whereas, Orlando Ralph supervised the fourth bridge's construction in 1884, employing kerosene barrels to help float this new bridge, and

Whereas, Carol Crane built the fifth bridge in 1913, placing wooden barrels underneath the span, providing innovative and stronger structural support, and

Whereas, a cooperative partnership of the State Highway Department and the Brookfield Selectboard, including Albert D'Estaing Reed, built the sixth bridge in 1936 using tarred barrels, and the State designated the new roadway as part of Vermont Route 65, and

Whereas, the seventh bridge was built in 1978 with modern foam-filled plastic floats replacing the barrels, and pressure-treated lumber was selected for decking, although much of the 1936 understructure was reused, and

Whereas, this seventh bridge carried cars until 2008, when it was deemed unsafe for vehicular traffic, and

Whereas, after a seven-year hiatus, on May 23, 2015, the Vermont Agency of Transportation will open the eighth Brookfield Floating Bridge that will float on 10 modern fiber-reinforced polymer — and foam-filled pontoons, opening a new chapter in the ever-evolving saga of this historic water crossing, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly commemorates the opening of the eighth Brookfield Floating Bridge, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Town of Brookfield and to Secretary of Transportation Sue Minter.