

NO. R-72. HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING
THE REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO ON THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF ITS
INDEPENDENCE AND THE VERMONT NATIONAL GUARD TROOPS
WHO HAVE SERVED IN KOSOVO SINCE 1999.

(H.C.R.49)

Offered by: Representatives Weston of Burlington, Acinapura of Brandon, Adams of Hartland, Andrews of Rutland City, Audette of S. Burlington, Bissonnette of Winooski, Bohi of Hartford, Botzow of Pownal, Bray of New Haven, Brennan of Colchester, Browning of Arlington, Canfield of Fair Haven, Cheney of Norwich, Clarkson of Woodstock, Condon of Colchester, Conquest of Newbury, Consejo of Sheldon, Copeland-Hanzas of Bradford, Corcoran of Bennington, Courcelle of Rutland City, Crawford of Burke, Davis of Washington, Devereux of Mount Holly, Dickinson of St. Albans Town, Donaghy of Poultney, Donahue of Northfield, Edwards of Brattleboro, Evans of Essex, Fisher of Lincoln, Flory of Pittsford, Frank of Underhill, French of Shrewsbury, French of Randolph, Geier of S. Burlington, Head of S. Burlington, Helm of Castleton, Higley of Lowell, Hooper of Montpelier, Howrigan of Fairfield, Hubert of Milton, Jerman of Essex, Johnson of Canaan, Kitzmiller of Montpelier, Klein of East Montpelier, Krawczyk of Bennington, Lanpher of Vergennes, Larocque of Barnet, Lawrence of Lyndon, Lenes of Shelburne, Leriche of Hardwick, Lewis of Derby, Lorber of Burlington, Macaig of Williston, Maier of Middlebury, Martin of Springfield, Masland of Thetford, McAllister of Highgate, McCullough of Williston, McDonald of Berlin, McFaun of Barre Town, McNeil of Rutland Town, Miller of Shaftsbury, Minter of Waterbury, Mitchell of Barnard, Mook of Bennington, Moran of Wardsboro, Morrissey of Bennington, Myers of Essex, Nease of Johnson, O'Brien of Richmond, Obuchowski of Rockingham, Orr of Charlotte, Partridge of Windham, Pearce of Richford, Peaslee of Guildhall, Perley of Enosburg, Potter of Clarendon, Ram of Burlington, Reis of St. Johnsbury, Rodgers of Glover, Savage of Swanton, Scheuermann of Stowe, Sharpe of Bristol, Smith of Mendon, Spengler of Colchester, Stevens of Waterbury, Sweaney of Windsor, Till of Jericho, Waite-Simpson of Essex, Webb of Shelburne, Winters of Williamstown, Wizowaty of Burlington, Young of St. Albans City, Zenie of Colchester and Zuckerman of Burlington

Offered by: Senators Ashe, Ayer, Bartlett, Giard, Hartwell, Illuzzi, Kittell, Mazza, McCormack, Miller, Mullin, Nitka, Racine, Shumlin and Snelling

Whereas, in 1999, NATO intervened in Kosovo to end attacks on the
Kosovar Albanian population, leading to a U.N. Security Council suspension
of Serbia's governance of Kosovo, and

Whereas, the Vermont National Guard has been part of the international peacekeeping force in Kosovo for an extended period of time, and

Whereas, from 1999 to 2008, the international peacekeeping force, including many Vermonters, was instrumental in maintaining stability in the region so that local democracy could be established, and

Whereas, on February 17, 2008, Kosovo declared its independence from Serbia, and

Whereas, the government of Kosovo is committed to the principles of good governance, equality under the law, and western democracy, and

Whereas, on February 18, 2008, the United States officially recognized the independence of Kosovo, and

Whereas, the Kosovar people have a bright future ahead of them, and

Whereas, on February 17, 2009, Kosovo will celebrate the first anniversary of its independence, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the Republic of Kosovo on the first anniversary of that nation's independence and establishment as a sovereign, independent, and democratic state in which human rights are respected, and be it further

Resolved: That the General Assembly commends the Vermonters who have served with the Vermont National Guard in Kosovo for their service as part of the international peacekeeping force, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Adjutant General Michael Dubie, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Kosovo, Hashim Thaçi, the President of the Republic of Kosovo Fatmir Sejdiu, and the Assembly President Jakup Krasniqi in Prishtina, Kosovo.