

No. R-141. House concurrent resolution commemorating the semiquincentennial anniversary of the Town of Westford.

(H.C.R.103)

Offered by: Representative Heath of Westford

Whereas, the Town of Westford traces its origins to June 8, 1763 when New Hampshire Royal Governor Benning Wentworth granted a charter to 66 proprietors for a tract of land of 23,040 acres, described as “Begining at the North Easterly Corner of Milton from thence Runing Southerly by the Easterly Line of said Milton six Miles to the South Easterly corner thereof which is the North Westerly corner of Essex . . . ,” and

Whereas, on March 25, 1793, the first Westford Town Meeting was convened, at which Francis Northway was elected as Moderator, Martin Powell as Town Clerk, and Jeremiah Stone as State Representative, and

Whereas, on August 7, 1801, a Congregational Church was organized in Westford, and

Whereas, the Rev. John H. Woodward, pastor of the Westford Congregational Church in the mid-19th century, served as Chaplain of the First Vermont Cavalry Regiment during the Civil War and was patriotic, brave, and often traveled directly to the battle front, earning him the name “the fighting chaplain,” and

Whereas, in recognition of his extraordinary military service and in honor of the 109 Westford residents who served during the Civil War, including his son who died in a military skirmish in Hagerstown, Maryland, a statue bearing his personal likeness stands on the Westford Common, and

Whereas, this is the only Civil War monument in Vermont that includes a statue bearing the likeness of a specific person, and

Whereas, the Browns River Covered Bridge, a kingpost truss with a Burr arch in the town center, was constructed in 1837–1838 and was restored in 1965 and again more recently, and

Whereas, a highlight of Westford’s 250th anniversary celebration is the Westford Historical Society’s exhibits on schools, war participants, tractors, clothing, Morehouse baskets, stone walls, and foundations, and

Whereas, any resolution commemorating Westford’s 250th anniversary should honor the late Westford Town Historian, Irene E. Allen (1904–1985), who wrote *Westford, Vermont, From 1913 approximately to 1963*, and the Westford section of the 1972 publication, *Look Around Jericho, Underhill and Westford*, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly commemorates the semiquincentennial anniversary of the Town of Westford, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Westford Town Clerk and the Westford Historical Society.