

**No. R-129. House concurrent resolution designating April 2015 as the Month of the Military Child in Vermont.**

(H.C.R.93)

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 a state like Vermont, where there are no military bases to connect them, military children and youth 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 the children of military personnel, 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, Vermont is one of the states that has ratified the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children to address the academic aspects of military children's continuous relocations, and

Whereas, nationwide, Operation Military Kids (OMK), which in Vermont is administered through the University of Vermont Extension and its 4-H program, helps these kids adjust to situations that other children do not experience, and

Whereas, for 2014, the Vermont OMK office reported that 119 volunteers contributed 770 hours working with OMK youngsters and that 33 support programs reached 437 military children, and

Whereas, OMK is also an information service for the broader community, offering "Ready, Set, Go" trainings about the effect on children of parental deployments and general information sessions on OMK programs, and

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

Whereas, local OMK children, along with Vermont OMK Coordinator staff at the University of Vermont Extension, are visiting the State House today, March 31, 2015, and

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

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly designates April 2015 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 Operation Military Kids at the University of Vermont Extension.