

**No. R-273. House concurrent resolution commemorating the 50th anniversary of the trail system and the 20th anniversary of the museum at Mount Independence.**

(H.C.R.202)

Offered by: Representatives Devereux of Mount Holly, Branagan of Georgia, Eastman of Orwell, and Jerman of Essex

Whereas, on July 7, 1776, following their military retreat from Canada, American generals convened a council of war at Crown Point, New York, and

Whereas, the generals agreed on the importance of developing a strong military presence on the eastern side of Lake Champlain, and upon further investigation settled on Rattlesnake Hill in Orwell, and

Whereas, on July 28, 1776, American military officers stationed at Rattlesnake Hill read aloud to their troops the newly issued Declaration of Independence, and the site became known as Mount Independence, and

Whereas, in the summer of 1777, American forces opted to abandon the extensive military fortification at Mount Independence and, following the Battle of Hubbardton that summer, British troops and their German allies occupied the site, and

Whereas, after an unsuccessful American raid to recapture Mount Independence and the British defeat at Saratoga, New York, the British departed, concluding the brief, but important, role of Mount Independence in the American Revolutionary War, and

Whereas, in 1961, the State of Vermont began to purchase parcels of land at Mount Independence in order to preserve this historical site for future generations, and

Whereas, in 1966, the State of Vermont opened four walking trails that pass historically significant Mount Independence archeological sites and offer vistas of Lake Champlain, and

Whereas, in 1996, the Division for Historic Preservation opened an architecturally unique history museum at Mount Independence designed “in the shape of a bateaux to symbolize the naval activities and strategic importance of Lake Champlain in the American Revolution,” and

Whereas, Mount Independence’s status as a national historic landmark is richly deserved, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly commemorates the 50th anniversary of the trail system and the 20th anniversary of the museum at Mount Independence, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Division for Historic Preservation.