

**No. R-448. House concurrent resolution congratulating Dismas of Vermont on its 30th anniversary.**

(H.C.R.371)

Offered by: Representatives Head of South Burlington, Briglin of Thetford, Browning of Arlington, Cole of Burlington, Donovan of Burlington, Emmons of Springfield, Fiske of Enosburgh, Frank of Underhill, Gonzalez of Winooski, Hooper of Montpelier, Krowinski of Burlington, Lenos of Shelburne, Lippert of Hinesburg, Lucke of Hartford, Morrissey of Bennington, O'Brien of Richmond, O'Sullivan of Burlington, Pugh of South Burlington, Rachelson of Burlington, Savage of Swanton, Stevens of Waterbury, Stuart of Brattleboro, Sullivan of Burlington, Tate of Mendon, and Walz of Barre City

Whereas, Dismas of Vermont was established in December of 1986 with a mission to reconcile prisoners with society and society with prisoners, and

Whereas, this valuable program of reconciliation has grown to serve Vermont communities in Dismas Houses in Burlington, Rutland, Winooski, and Hartford, and

Whereas, Dismas Houses are mutually supportive, diverse communities designed to end the stigma of incarceration and facilitate the reintegration of former prisoners into community life, and

Whereas, these special places of residence mix former inmates with college students, who are also experiencing life transitions, and with members of International Volunteers for Peace, and

Whereas, at Dismas Houses, there is a spirit of open and participative decision making, and

Whereas, over 500 volunteers assist in many activities at Dismas Houses, and

Whereas, Dismas of Vermont supports and emphasizes the reentry of former prisoners into the workforce in a broad array of businesses and services, and

Whereas, partnerships are maintained with the Department of Corrections, the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, the Vermont Community Foundation, and numerous social service agencies and faith communities, and

Whereas, Dismas of Vermont also has a strong record of private fundraising and many loyal donors, and

Whereas, an important role of Dismas of Vermont is supporting residents who are struggling to overcome addictions to alcohol and drugs, as well as those coping with mental illness and other disabilities, and

Whereas, the reconciliation of families, including parents and children, which incarceration has divided, is a central element of the Dismas program, and

Whereas, Dismas of Vermont is a critical partner in the effort to reduce incarceration and foster the reintegration of the formerly incarcerated into Vermont society, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates Dismas of Vermont on its 30th anniversary, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Dismas of Vermont.