

No. R-486. House concurrent resolution congratulating the Northfield Observances on their 40th anniversary.

(H.C.R.406)

Offered by: Representatives Donahue of Northfield and Lewis of Berlin

Offered by: Senators Cummings, Doyle, and Pollina

Whereas, each Labor Day weekend, the Northfield Observances feature a cornucopia of events to mark the approach of the fall season, and

Whereas, the genesis of the Northfield Observances was a parade held in 1975 in commemoration of the upcoming U.S. Bicentennial, although that event was not intended as the start of an annual Labor Day celebration, and

Whereas, the next year, booths featuring local vendors and organizations were introduced on the town common, but the now-Labor Day-connected festivities were limited to a single day, and

Whereas, in 1977, the three-day schedule that thousands of visitors now anticipate each Labor Day weekend was initiated, and

Whereas, also in 1977, the Quilt Festival, which has since evolved into a large, separate event, was introduced—a welcomed artistic attraction, and

Whereas, David Freeman served as the Northfield Observances first president, and

Whereas, the Northfield Savings Bank inaugurated its Saturday 5k footrace in 1978, bringing an athletic component to the weekend's event, and a shorter kids' race has since been added, and

Whereas, the Northfield Observances include free family-friendly entertainment, and sponsorships and donations provide financial support for the weekend, and

Whereas, many local nonprofit organizations establish food or game booths to serve as fundraisers, and long-time vendors include Rick Lansing, Jack Baroffio of the Northfield High School rifle team, and Rubber Bubbles, and

Whereas, in 2009, a car show brought a new dimension to the weekend, and

Whereas, except for 2011, when Tropical Storm Irene struck, and neighbors focused on helping each other through the critical recovery effort, the Northfield Observances have taken place each Labor Day weekend for 41 years, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the Northfield Observances on their 40th anniversary, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Northfield Observances President Lori Bussiere.