

No. R-515. House concurrent resolution congratulating the Solomon Wright Public Library on its 50th anniversary.

(H.C.R.361)

Offered by: Representatives Botzow of Pownal, Berry of Manchester, Browning of Arlington, Corcoran of Bennington, Fields of Bennington, Miller of Shaftsbury, Morris of Bennington, and Morrissey of Bennington

Offered by: Senators Champion and Sears

Whereas, the history of centralized public library service in Pownal began in 1947, and

Whereas, in January 1948, new volunteer librarian Helen Thompson Renner, a Pownal native and graduate of Syracuse University library science program, started her 40 years of public service to the reading public, and

Whereas, in 1952, Solomon Wright Jr. left the library a bequest of \$1,000.00 that facilitated the purchase of the present site on Main Street in Pownal, and

Whereas, a combination of federal and locally raised private funds financed the 2,000-square-foot colonial-style brick building that opened in January 1966, and

Whereas, the building was named the Solomon Wright Public Library in honor of his bequest, and

Whereas, in 1993, Pownal's public library became the first library in Bennington County to connect to the Vermont Automated Library system, and

Whereas, in 1995, a series of building improvements were implemented, including bringing the structure into compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act and the addition of a community room and an office, and

Whereas, in 2006, the Solomon Wright Public Library met the State's minimum library standards for the first time, and

Whereas, in 2010, four volunteer staff members uploaded 14,000 items to LibraryWorld, a web-based system that enables patrons to browse the library's collection on in-house public access computers, mobile devices, and home computers, and

Whereas, in 2012, the 800-square-foot addition of the "Lucy Wright Case Reading Room" was completed due to the generosity of Peter Tyler Case and his children, as well as the fundraising efforts of the library's board, and

Whereas, in 2013, the Solomon Wright Public Library initiated broadband Internet service, and

Whereas, 2016 marks the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Solomon Wright Public Library, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the Solomon Wright Public Library in Pownal on its 50th anniversary, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Linda Hall, Director of the Solomon Wright Public Library; to Peter Tyler Case and Audrey Parker, descendants of Solomon Wright Jr; and to the Pownal Historical Society.