

State of Vermont House of Representatives



Montpelier, Vermont

Concurrent House Resolution

H.C.R. 372

House concurrent resolution congratulating the Montshire Museum in Norwich on the 40th anniversary of its opening

Offered by: Representatives Briglin of Thetford, Masland of Thetford, Bartholomew of Hartland, Buxton of Tunbridge, Clarkson of Woodstock, Copeland-Hanzas of Bradford, Dakin of Chester, Lucke of Hartford, Sweaney of Windsor, and Zagar of Barnard

Whereas, the Montshire Museum (Montshire), with a unique name incorporating the final syllables of the two states bordering the Connecticut River, was incorporated in 1974 to “encourage a lifelong interest in science through exhibits and programming dedicated to hands-on discovery,” and

Whereas, on January 10, 1976, the Montshire Museum opened in its temporary home, a former bowling alley, in Hanover with minimal exhibits, and

Whereas, in 1980, the Montshire earned the designation as the nation’s first public service science center, and

Whereas, seeking a permanent and more commodious location, in 1984 the Montshire purchased 100 acres along the Connecticut River in Norwich and on November 18, 1989, more than 3,000 persons attended the new building’s grand opening, and

Whereas, in 1994, the National Science Foundation (NSF) awarded the Montshire a grant for Model Projects for Women and Girls in Science and Mathematics: Science Horizons, and the NSF has awarded the Montshire additional grants for special projects, and

Whereas, in 1995, the Montshire was designated an official interpretive center for the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge, and

Whereas, also in 1995, at a White House ceremony, the Institute of Museum and Library Services presented the Montshire the National Award for Museum Service, and

Whereas, in 2002, Dartmouth College and the Montshire created the Dartmouth-Montshire Institute for Science Education to enhance the quality of science education in Vermont and New Hampshire, and

Whereas, that same year, the Montshire opened its 10,000-square-foot Leonard M. Reiser Learning Center, which included new exhibit space, a classroom for visiting school groups, and a multimedia theater, and

Whereas, in 2012, the Montshire was ranked fourth among the top science and technology museums in the country, and

Whereas, in 2015, the Montshire welcomed 166,648 visitors, including students from 242 schools, and it continues to create award-winning and innovative exhibits and programs and is a fun place to visit, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the Montshire Museum on the 40th anniversary of its opening, and be it further

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