

**No. R-42. House concurrent resolution congratulating the Dorset Players and the Dorset Theater Festival on their respective 90th and 40th anniversaries.**

(H.C.R.25)

Offered by: Representative Sullivan of Dorset

Offered by: Senators Campion and Sears

Whereas, in 1927, Dr. and Mrs. Edward Goodman organized area performing arts enthusiasts to produce a play at the Dorset Town Hall; the resulting production of Rachel Crothers' Broadway comedy hit *39 East* received rave reviews; and the Dorset Players, an amateur theatrical organization, was soon established, and

Whereas, the Dorset Town Hall proved an inadequate performance space, and in 1929, theatergoers celebrated the opening of the Dorset Playhouse that was built using wood from local barns, and

Whereas, the Dorset Players now offer a three-season schedule and own the Dorset Playhouse that was renovated at the start of the 21st century, and

Whereas, in 1976, John Nassivera and Jill Charles rented the Dorset Playhouse for a summer season of professional theater known initially as Harlequin Ltd. and today as the Dorset Theater Festival (DTF), a nonprofit organization presenting equity theater productions, and

Whereas, DTF's work reflects the highest professional standards and some productions have appeared subsequently on Broadway, and

Whereas, since 2010, an organized group of DTF supporters has helped ensure the organization's financial health, and

Whereas, the DTF's Giving Back program enables members of designated groups, many serving in community service roles, to enjoy a theater experience at a "pay-what-you-can" price, and as a member of the national Blue Star Arts program, DTF extends this offer to military personnel, their families, and veterans, and

Whereas, the Jean E. Miller Young Playwrights Competition provides middle and high school students the opportunity to write a play, with guidance from advanced Bennington College playwriting students, and the middle and high school winners' plays are given a staged reading at DTF, and a newly added recognition for outstanding work is the awarding of a cash prize, and

Whereas, the partnership of the three-season Dorset Players and the summer-season DTF is a cherished theatrical collaboration, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the Dorset Players and the Dorset Theater Festival on their respective 90th and 40th anniversaries, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Dorset Players and to the Dorset Theater Festival.