

No. R-123. House concurrent resolution designating April 26, 2017 as Vermont Lions Day.

(H.C.R.93)

Offered by: Representatives Walz of Barre City, Lanpher of Vergennes, McFaun of Barre Town, Morrissey of Bennington, Pearce of Richford, and Smith of New Haven

Whereas, the saga of the Lions Clubs International's good deeds and fraternal camaraderie began in 1917 when Chicago business leader, Melvin Jones, urged his colleagues to address the betterment of their communities and the world, and

Whereas, to meet this objective, an organizational meeting of various community groups was convened in Chicago on June 7, 1917, and the resulting new entity adopted the name of one of the invited groups, the "Association of Lions Clubs," and

Whereas, a national convention of the new Lions Clubs organization was held in Dallas, Texas, in October 1917, and a constitution, bylaws, and code of ethics were adopted, and

Whereas, in 1920, the Lions Club became an international organization with the establishment of a chapter in Windsor, Ontario, and

Whereas, a pivotal moment in the Lions Clubs International's history occurred in 1925 when Helen Keller addressed its convention, and her speech motivated the organization to devote its resources to aid the blind and visually impaired, including the provision of eyeglasses and the establishment of special recreational camps for both children and adults with visual challenges, and

Whereas, in more recent years, Lions Clubs International's "One Shot, One Life: Lions Measles Initiative" has become a special objective in a financial partnership with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and

Whereas, Lions Clubs International, now the world's largest service organization, includes 35 local Lions Clubs in Vermont, and

Whereas, Lions Clubs in Vermont are providing free vision screening to 16,000 children during the current school year, and

Whereas, over 1,000 Vermont Lions, including several legislators, are joining with over 1.4 million Lions Clubs International members worldwide in celebration of the organization's centennial anniversary, and a number of Vermont Lions have gathered today at the State House to commemorate this special occasion, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly designates April 26, 2017 as Vermont Lions Day, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Lions Clubs International headquarters in Oak Brook, Illinois, and to the organization's District 45 Governor Joseph Wilson in Springfield, Vermont.