

No. R-328. House concurrent resolution congratulating the Mount Holly Community Historical Museum on celebrating its 50th Anniversary.

(H.C.R.263)

Offered by: Representatives Devereux of Mount Holly and Potter of Clarendon

Offered by: Senators Nitka, Clarkson, Collamore, Flory, and McCormack

Whereas, in 1968, Edna Mae DesJardins originated the concept of a Mount Holly Community Historical Museum, and the W.H. White blacksmith shop in Belmont that was for sale was the ideal location, and

Whereas, at the time, the Edminster family owned the proposed museum's possible home that had served as a casket shop, tearoom, children's playhouse, and most recently as the compounding center for J. Warner Edminster, one of the State's last traveling druggists, and

Whereas, Randolph Smith presided as acting chair at an exploratory meeting of interested citizens, and John Hurd and his wife, who were associated with the Weathersfield Historical Society, provided advice, and

Whereas, subsequently, the group elected Milton Unterman as its first Chair, Leland Dudley and Katherine Laumann as vice chairs, Edna Mae DesJardins as Secretary-Treasurer, and Harriet Parmenter as Historian, and Katherine Laumann also served as Curator, a position that James Holden, Janice Bamforth, Katherine Laumann's daughter, and Robin Eatmon have since held, and

Whereas, the Edminster family agreed to sell the house, and after major renovations in 1969, the museum opened, and

Whereas, on display are several permanent exhibits that feature, not surprisingly, blacksmith tools, as well as information on the town's one-room schoolhouses, the old post office boxes used in the village, a cheesemaking display, and a surrey used to bring guests to local inns, and

Whereas, in 2004, Alice Perkins Bennett and her nephew, Todd McCabe, descendants of the Taylor-Perkins family, donated the Perkins House on the Mount Holly village green to the museum, and after a major fundraising campaign that financed restoration work, the house opened as a second museum site in 2010, displaying information on the home's family history, Mount Holly's civil war artifacts, photo albums, early quilts, and a mammoth tooth and tusk that in accordance with 1 V.S.A. § 509(b) is designated as the State Terrestrial Fossil, and

Whereas, 2018 marks a half-century since the founding of the Mount Holly Community Historical Museum, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the Mount Holly Community Historical Museum on its 50th anniversary, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Mount Holly Community Historical Museum.