

No. R-331. House concurrent resolution congratulating the Robb Family Farm in West Brattleboro on its 110th anniversary.

(H.C.R.266)

Offered by: Representatives Stuart of Brattleboro, Burke of Brattleboro, and Toleno of Brattleboro

Whereas, in 1907, Thomas and Christine Betterly began milking Jersey cows at a West Brattleboro site that became the Robb Family Farm, and

Whereas, the farm's spacious barn originally sat in Halifax prior to its relocation to West Brattleboro in 1912, and the farmhouse was constructed in 1914, and

Whereas, over the decades, the farm transitioned to Guernseys and eventually added Holsteins to its milking herd, and

Whereas, in 2011, erratic milk prices forced Charles Sr. and Helen Robb, the farm's fourth generation, to sell the remaining Holsteins and pursue an alternative business path centered on the farm's many acres of sugar maple trees, as well as the initiation of an organically raised beef herd, and

Whereas, the farm's extensive sugar bush currently includes 3,500 taps, but there are plans to expand this number to 5,000, and the annual maple syrup production equals 800 gallons, and

Whereas, the Robb Family Farm current sugarhouse, constructed in 1998, replaced its predecessor that dated from the 1920s, and the Robbs proudly produce 100 percent natural maple syrup with no formaldehyde, pesticides, or chemicals, and

Whereas, part of the dairy barn's milking room was converted into a kitchen where a variety of value-added maple products are manufactured, such as maple candy, maple ice cream, and maple coated nuts, and

Whereas, the Robb Family sells its panoply of maple products both at its store, located at the farm on Ames Road in West Brattleboro, and online, and

Whereas, for the 2016 holiday season, the actress Brooke Shields promoted the Robb Family Farm's maple products in *People Magazine's* celebrity Holiday Gift Guide, and

Whereas, the Robb Family Farm's specialty natural beef is derived from a mixed herd of Hereford, Simmental, and Charolais cattle that are neither raised in feed lots nor fed any grain, but rather pastured and not injected with either hormones or steroids, and

Whereas, the multigenerational and thriving Robb Family Farm marked its 110th anniversary in 2017, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the Robb Family Farm on its 110th anniversary, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Robb Family Farm in West Brattleboro.