

**No. R-384. House concurrent resolution designating April 2018 as the Month of the Military Child in Vermont.**

(H.C.R.310)

Offered by: Representatives Head of South Burlington, Christie of Hartford, Fields of Bennington, Gonzalez of Winooski, Howard of Rutland City, Read of Fayston, Scheuermann of Stowe, Smith of Derby, Stevens of Waterbury, Strong of Albany, and Walz of Barre City

Whereas, military children encounter special challenges with families regularly transferred across the country and overseas and parents deployed to dangerous combat assignments, and

Whereas, unlike most youngsters in civilian families, military children must regularly acculturate to new schools and communities, and

Whereas, military children are a vital part of their parents' lives, and

Whereas, in recognition of the contributions and sacrifices of military children, in 1986, U.S. Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger established the Month of the Military Child, a commemoration that continues, and

Whereas, the Vermont National Guard Child and Youth Program (VTNG CYP), as do its counterpart programs operated throughout the U.S. Armed Forces, seeks "to provide a supportive environment for children and youth through activities and events specifically designed to encourage personal growth, strength of character and moral development in peacetime and through the cycles of deployment," and

Whereas, in 2017, VTNG CYP oversaw over 525 hours of diverse programs for over 600 youths from six to 17 years of age, whose parents serve in national guard or active military units, and

Whereas, among these programs were eight overnight camping opportunities, including the eighth annual VTNG Family Camp, the fifth annual VTNG End of Summer Camp, and nine Teen Resilience Trainings, and

Whereas, high school and college students, AmeriCorps members, and adults contributed over 1,000 volunteer hours in support of VTNG CYP's activities, and

Whereas, today, April 3, 2018, representatives of VTNG CYP are visiting the State House to remind everyone of the unique challenges and sacrifices that military personnel's young dependents must face, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly designates April 2018 as the Month of the Military Child in Vermont, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Vermont Adjutant and Inspector General Major General Steven Cray and to the Vermont National Guard Child and Youth Program.