

No. R-385. House concurrent resolution commemorating the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

(H.C.R.311)

Offered by: Representatives Dickinson of St. Albans Town, Batchelor of Derby, Bissonnette of Winooski, Brennan of Colchester, Canfield of Fair Haven, Cupoli of Rutland City, Frenier of Chelsea, Gage of Rutland City, Gamache of Swanton, Graham of Williamstown, Harrison of Chittenden, Hebert of Vernon, Higley of Lowell, Howard of Rutland City, Keefe of Manchester, Lawrence of Lyndon, Marcotte of Coventry, Mattos of Milton, McCoy of Poultney, McFaun of Barre Town, Morris of Bennington, Morrissey of Bennington, Myers of Essex, Nolan of Morristown, Parent of St. Albans Town, Quimby of Concord, Savage of Swanton, Smith of Derby, Strong of Albany, Van Wyck of Ferrisburgh, Viens of Newport City, Willhoit of St. Johnsbury, and Wright of Burlington

Whereas, in the 1860s, Charles Algernon Sidney Vivian led an informal social club for New York City theatrical people, known as the Jolly Corks, and

Whereas, on February 16, 1868, the members of the Jolly Corks established the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks (the Elks) to formalize the structure of the organization and to expand its mission to include serving those in need, and

Whereas, the New York State legislature issued a charter for a Grand Lodge that could charter local Elks lodges, and the first local charter was issued on March 10, 1871 for the establishment of New York Lodge No. 1, and

Whereas, the mission of the Elks is: “To inculcate the principles of Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love and Fidelity; to recognize a belief in God; to promote the welfare and enhance the happiness of its Members; to quicken the spirit of American patriotism; to cultivate good fellowship; to perpetuate itself as a fraternal organization, and to provide for its government, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America will serve the people and communities through benevolent programs, demonstrating that Elks Care and Elks Share,” and

Whereas, the first Elks Lodge established in Vermont, Rutland Lodge No. 345, was chartered on April 23, 1896, and

Whereas, in 2018, over 7,000 Elks are members of one of 12 lodges across the State, and

Whereas, nationally, the Elks fund more than \$3.65 million annually in scholarships; promote youth physical fitness through the Hoop Shoot free throw and Soccer Shoot; engage in drug awareness activities; conduct the Americanism Essay Contest for students in grades 5 through 8; and conduct a community investments program that supports medical research, recreational opportunities, and other worthy endeavors, and

Whereas, since 1958, the Vermont Elks Association has operated the Silver Towers Camp in Ripton, a summer residential recreational facility for persons with disabilities, who are from six to 75 years of age, and

Whereas, 2018 marks the 150th anniversary of the establishment of the Elks, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly commemorates the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Vermont Elks Association President Brian Gaura.