

No. R-416. House concurrent resolution congratulating Wallace L. Mattison of Pownal on his appointment as Chevalier of the Legion of Honor of France.

(H.C.R.342)

Offered by: Representatives Morrissey of Bennington, Botzow of Pownal, Browning of Arlington, Corcoran of Bennington, Fields of Bennington, Keefe of Manchester, Miller of Shaftsbury, Morris of Bennington, and Sullivan of Dorset

Offered by: Senators Campion and Sears

Whereas, since 2004, as a special recognition of the nation's gratitude, the government of France has awarded surviving American military combat veterans of World War II who served in France the rank of Chevalier of the Legion of Honor, the nation's highest military and civilian honor, and

Whereas, Wally Mattison, a native of Bennington, was inducted into the U.S. Army in March 1943, and after training as a light machine gunner was deployed to the European Theater of Operations in March 1944 and assigned to the 29th Infantry Division, 115th Regiment, and

Whereas, in June 1944, shortly after the D-Day Invasion, he landed in France, fighting in the front lines of the Normandy Campaign until August, assaulting multiple German positions, and capturing a German soldier, and

Whereas, after Normandy, Wally Mattison fought in the Battle of St. Lo that ended with the occupation of that city and then continued forward to the Battle for Brest, and

Whereas, on September 12, 1944, as part of his American military contingent's assaulting and advancing toward a German garrison in Brest, and while crawling out of a tank trap, he was shot, the bullet barely missing his spine, and

Whereas, once removed from the battle scene, Wally Mattison recuperated for a period of five months before returning to combat in February 1945, participating in the capture and occupation of several German cities, and

Whereas, Wally Mattison was the recipient of several military medals, including a Purple Heart, and

Whereas, upon returning home to Vermont, he embarked on an illustrious 40-year career with the Bennington Police Department, retiring as a captain and acting chief, and

Whereas, on July 10, 2017, by decree of the President of the French Republic, Wallace Mattison was appointed as Chevalier of the Legion of Honor, and

Whereas, at a memorable ceremony held on November 22, 2017 at the Vermont Veterans Home in Bennington, the Boston-based Consul General of France honored Wallace Mattison for his gallant service that helped save the French nation, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates Wallace L. Mattison of Pownal on his appointment as Chevalier of the Legion of Honor of France, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Wally Mattison.