

**No. R-432. House concurrent resolution congratulating the George J. Brooks Memorial Library on its 50th Anniversary.**

(H.C.R.358)

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

Offered by: Senators Balint and White

Whereas, the vision of the Brooks Memorial Library is “that all members of the community engage with the library to spark curiosity, enrich lives, and achieve aspirations,” and

Whereas, in 1842, the private Brattleboro Library Association was organized and for the ensuing 40 years offered the community much-appreciated book-borrowing privileges, and

Whereas, in 1882, the association transferred its entire book collection to the Town of Brattleboro and the renamed Brattleboro Free Library, and the lower town hall served as the library’s new and temporary home, and

Whereas, in 1887, a beautiful new home for the library was inaugurated, when the George J. Brooks Library, named for its primary financial benefactor, opened on Main Street, and

Whereas, by the early 1960s, the library’s collection, patronage, and services had all increased, making the once commodious library uncomfortably overcrowded and outdated, and

Whereas, a larger, modern, and renamed George J. Brooks Memorial Library building opened in 1967 to serve as a full-service, 20th-century library and center for community activities, and

Whereas, on September 23, 2017, in commemoration of the Brooks Memorial Library’s 50th anniversary, a festive day-long celebration was held, featuring children’s events, historical reminiscences, an enjoyable presentation from a panelist of the humor-filled radio program *Wait, Wait Don’t Tell Me*, dancing to the musical accompaniment of the Wild Nightz Trio, and, of course, a birthday cake, and

Whereas, in 2018, as the Brooks Memorial Library begins its second half-century, it operates as a contemporary 21st-century institution, providing outstanding print and electronic information services and a diverse offering of programs and events for the greater Brattleboro community, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the George J. Brooks Memorial Library on its 50th Anniversary, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Brooks Memorial Library.