

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

ADDENDUM

TO THE

**HOUSE AND SENATE
CALENDAR**

**Text of House and Senate
Concurrent Resolutions**

of

May 4, 2017

Concurrent Resolutions for Adoption Under Joint Rule 16

The following concurrent resolutions will be adopted automatically unless a Representative or Senator requests floor consideration before the end of Friday's legislative session. Requests for floor consideration must be communicated to the House Clerk's office or the Senate Secretary's office.

Resolutions

H.C.R. 158.

House concurrent resolution honoring John Bisbee for his nearly three decades of extraordinary public service as a guardian ad litem

Offered by: Representatives Rachelson of Burlington, Brumsted of Shelburne, Buckholz of Hartford, Grad of Moretown, and Pugh of South Burlington

Whereas, in 1988, John Bisbee decided to volunteer as a guardian ad litem, and

Whereas, a guardian ad litem, according to *Black's Law Dictionary*, is a court-appointed individual charged with either prosecuting or defending, on behalf of an infant (meaning a minor) or an incompetent person, in cases in which the infant or incompetent person is a party, and

Whereas, when John Bisbee assumed this special role, the State of Vermont did not provide any training for guardians ad litem, and

Whereas, despite the challenges involved, he approached his assignments with absolute compassion, commitment, and a steadfastness to do what is right and just, and

Whereas, his work as a guardian ad litem was not restricted to advocating for specific children as his interest extended to improving the child welfare and Family Court support systems for all children, and

Whereas, John Bisbee applied his professional engineering experience and passion for data analysis to discover and develop better ways to assist children whose family situations necessitated public support services or judicial involvement, and

Whereas, he participated in the Court Improvement Project and conducted independent research that examined the effectiveness of the Family Services Division of the Department for Children and Families, and

Whereas, John Bisbee's generous volunteerism has also included working with the statewide Permanency Planning Project, the former Chittenden County Family Treatment Court, the Chittenden Family Court, the State Court Administrator, and nonprofit organizations such as Lund, the KidSafe Collaborative, Planned Parenthood, and the Vermont Children's Aid Society, and

Whereas, in December 2016, John Bisbee, whose advocacy on behalf of especially vulnerable children was remarkable and inspiring, concluded his nearly three decades serving as a much-admired guardian ad litem, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors John Bisbee for his nearly three decades of extraordinary public service as a guardian ad litem, and be it further

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

H.C.R. 159.

House concurrent resolution congratulating the Westford School Periodic Pandas on their selection as semifinalists in the *FIRSTLEGO* League Global Innovation Award competition

Offered by: Representative Bancroft of Westford

Whereas, in 1998, *FIRST*, a nonprofit organization encouraging youngsters to engage “in playful and meaningful learning” that is scientifically and technologically centered, and the LEGO Group jointly established the *FIRSTLEGO* League, and

Whereas, *FIRSTLEGO* League participants apply science, technology, engineering, and math concepts to the creation of innovative solutions to real-world problems, and

Whereas, the *FIRSTLEGO* League operates on core values of respect for competitors and the importance of learning over winning, and it conducts the *FIRSTLEGO* League Global Innovation Award competition, and

Whereas, the Westford School Periodic Pandas’ team project, BeeFinder.org, sought to “create a location aware software solution to identify and develop native bee habitat [which has been disappearing],” and

Whereas, the Periodic Pandas’ proposed solution relies on open data sources, such as satellite imagery and GIS maps, that can “ identify the necessary habitat conditions to promote thriving native bee populations,” and the team proposes that the data be made broadly available, and

Whereas, on April 18, 2017, the Periodic Pandas were delighted to learn they were selected as one of 20 semifinalist teams from among entrants representing 30 countries, and

Whereas, as semifinalists, the Periodic Pandas will travel in June to Washington, D.C., for the *FIRSTLEGO* League Global Innovation Award championship where the winning team will be awarded a \$20,000.00 research grant to continue its project, and the judges will also present similarly purposed grants of \$5,000.00 to two runner-up teams, and

Whereas, the thrilled Westford School Periodic Pandas advancing in this international scientific challenge are Molly Drapa, Max Drapa, Carmela Symula, Grace Symula, Isabella Armata, Jordan Hutchins, Mason Eckman, Robert Morse, Emilie Bennett, Eli Pierce, Lazaria Harris, and Ximena LescieurGarcia, and Coach Mark Drapa is an inspiring mentor, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the Westford School Periodic Pandas on their selection as semifinalists in the *FIRSTLEGO* League Global Innovation Award competition and extends best wishes for their journey to Washington, D.C., and be it further

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

H.C.R. 160.

House concurrent resolution congratulating The Bank of Bennington on its 100th anniversary

Offered by: Representatives Morrissey of Bennington, Botzow of Pownal, Browning of Arlington, Burditt of West Rutland, Canfield of Fair Haven, Carr of Brandon, Chesnut-Tangerman of Middletown Springs, Corcoran of Bennington, Cupoli of Rutland City, Devereux of Mount Holly, Fagan of Rutland City, Fields of Bennington, Gage of Rutland City, Harrison of Chittenden, Helm of Fair Haven, Howard of Rutland City, Keefe of Manchester, McCoy of Poultney, Miller of Shaftsbury, Morris of Bennington, Norris of Shoreham, Potter of Clarendon, Shaw of Pittsford, and Sullivan of Dorset

Offered by: Senators Campion, Collamore, Flory, Mullin, and Sears

Whereas, on May 14, 1917, a group of leading Bennington citizens met in the office of William Wills, who from 1941–1945 served as Governor of Vermont, to establish the Bennington Co-Operative Savings Bank for the sole purpose of granting home mortgages to local mill workers, and

Whereas, the Association's formula for financing these mortgages entailed borrowing money from larger banks at five percent and issuing six-percent mortgages, and

Whereas, the first mortgage was granted in October of 1917 to Clarence D. Wilson, an employee of the E.Z. Waist Company, for the sum of \$1,800.00 for the purchase of a house at 219 Grove Street that remains standing in 2017, and

Whereas, from this limited original purpose, the Association evolved into a multi-service bank, and

Whereas, the diversification of its financial mission necessitated a new organizational structure and name, and in 1999, the Association became a financial mutual holding company and adopted a new name, The Bank of Bennington (the Bank), and

Whereas, as a mutual bank, the stakeholders (meaning the depositors) are granted voting rights on major governance issues in accordance with the amount of their deposits, subject to a maximum number of votes per depositor, and

Whereas, through careful organic growth, the Bank has increased its assets to \$400,000,000.00, and

Whereas, the Bank now serves its customers from locations in Bennington, Arlington, Manchester, and Rutland, and

Whereas, over the past decade, the Bank has donated \$750,000.00 to worthy causes in the community, and

Whereas, for over a quarter-century, the Bank has earned a 5-star superior rating from the Bauer Financial bank rating system, and

Whereas, the Bank is observing its 100th anniversary throughout 2017, and one of this centennial year's commemorative events is a gala celebration on May 12 to mark this historic milestone, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates The Bank of Bennington on its 100th anniversary, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to The Bank of Bennington.

H.C.R. 161.

House concurrent resolution honoring Summer Stoutes of Tinmouth for her selfless generosity as a kidney donor and congratulating Brent Garrow on his successful transplant surgery recovery and resumption of his firefighting career

Offered by: Representatives Burditt of West Rutland, Potter of Clarendon, Canfield of Fair Haven, Carr of Brandon, Chesnut-Tangerman of Middletown Springs, Cupoli of Rutland City, Devereux of Mount Holly, Fagan of Rutland City, Haas of Rochester, Harrison of Chittenden, Helm of Fair Haven, Howard of Rutland City, Keefe of Manchester, McCoy of Poultney, Norris of Shoreham, Shaw of Pittsford, Sullivan of Dorset, and Terenzini of Rutland Town

Offered by: Senators Collamore, Flory, and Mullin

Whereas, the donation of a kidney represents a unique gift of life on which a monetary value is not easily assessed, and

Whereas, this extraordinary act of human generosity is even more remarkable when a living donor and the recipient are strangers, and

Whereas, Summer Stoutes of Tinmouth had recently celebrated the fifth anniversary of her husband's successful kidney transplant when she noticed a heartrending Facebook post that she could personally identify with, and

Whereas, the mother of Rutland City firefighter Brent Garrow had posted a Facebook appeal on behalf of her son who required a kidney transplant, and

Whereas, Brent Garrow did not believe that his mother's Facebook post would produce a matching and willing organ donor as he doubted a sufficient number of persons would be interested in his medical condition, and

Whereas, not only did Summer Stoutes respond affirmatively and enthusiastically, but she proved a medically acceptable match, and

Whereas, a day after the successful surgery, Summer Stoutes and Brent Garrow met for the first time and are now friends for life with a strong personal bond, and

Whereas, as a result of the transplant surgery, Brent Garrow's health is greatly improved, he will soon be returning to his duties as a firefighter in Rutland City, and he looks forward to resuming his other first responder role as a police officer in Pittsford, and

Whereas, Summer Stoutes has been honored as a Red Cross Everyday Hero, a recognition she finds unwarranted and were she able to, Summer Stoutes would donate 30 more kidneys, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors Summer Stoutes of Tinmouth for her selfless generosity as a kidney donor and congratulates Brent Garrow on his successful recovery and resumption of his firefighting and law enforcement careers, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Summer Stoutes and Brent Garrow.

H.C.R. 162.

House concurrent resolution honoring Ron Stahley for his insightful public education leadership

Offered by: Representatives Hebert of Vernon, Burke of Brattleboro, Deen of Westminster, Mrowicki of Putney, Stuart of Brattleboro, and Toleno of Brattleboro

Offered by: Senators Balint and White

Whereas, for 40 years, Ron Stahley has brought to his public education teaching and administrative career a students-first philosophy, and

Whereas, in 1976, Ron Stahley earned a bachelor's degree at Bridgewater State College in Massachusetts and continued his educational journey, securing a master's

degree from the University of Massachusetts at Boston (UMB); completing further graduate studies at UMB, Norwich University, and the University of Vermont; and receiving a doctoral degree from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, and

Whereas, as a teacher, Ron Stahley saw his role as extending beyond the classroom, and he served as a student council advisor and an athletics coach, and

Whereas, in 1990, after teaching social studies at Massachusetts high schools, Ron Stahley became the principal at Enosburg Falls High School and the district's curriculum director, and

Whereas, in 1993, Leland & Gray Union High School and Middle School in Townshend appointed Ron Stahley as its principal, and his dynamic leadership included the development of Asian studies courses, and

Whereas, in 2001, the Newfane-based Windham Central Supervisory Union (WCSU) appointed him as its assistant superintendent, and

Whereas, in 2002, the Brattleboro-headquartered Windham Southeast Supervisory Union (WSESU), recognizing the breadth of Ron Stahley's professional achievements and competency, named him as the district's new superintendent, and

Whereas, as WSESU's Superintendent, he initiated an innovative dual credit project through the Windham Regional Collegiate High School, created a social competency development program, responded to incidents of racial hatred with a community equity collaborative, promoted healthy meals programs, continuously engaged with the community at large, and in 2012 was deservedly named Vermont Superintendent of the Year, and

Whereas, Ron Stahley's tenure as WSESU's superintendent is concluding in 2017, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors Ron Stahley for his insightful public education leadership, and be it further

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

H.C.R. 163.

House concurrent resolution commemorating the 75th anniversary of the U.S. Navy Construction Battalions, the Seabees

Offered by: All Members of the House

Whereas, in 1941, realizing that reliance on civilian construction workers would be inadequate to meet the Navy's land-based construction requirements, Rear Admiral Ben Moreell, Chief of the Navy's Bureau of Yards and Docks, recommended the establishment of Naval Construction Battalions, and

Whereas, the first three Naval Construction Battalions (the Seabees) were established in 1942 and placed under the command of the Navy's Civil Engineer Corps, and

Whereas, the name Seabees is derived from the first letters of Construction Battalions and the organization's logo, a fighting bee clad in a colorful naval uniform and equipped with both a tommy gun and construction tools, symbolizes a preoccupation with construction work while always maintaining a readiness to defend oneself whenever attacked, and

Whereas, the Seabees' motto "Construimus Batuimus" (We Build, We Fight) and their expression "Can Do" epitomize an unwavering commitment to accomplishing their construction mission, and

Whereas, over 325,000 Seabees, who initially were older, experienced construction workers and not younger recruits, served during World War II, building every imaginable naval facility, often under combat conditions, and

Whereas, demobilized after World War II, the Seabees were revitalized during the Korean War, and their miraculous construction feats convinced senior authorities that the Seabees should remain a vibrant component of the Navy, and

Whereas, after the Korean War, the Seabees became the Navy's Goodwill Ambassadors, engaging in international civilian construction projects, such as building roads and orphanages, and also constructing major infrastructure and scientific facilities in Antarctica, and

Whereas, the Seabees' construction support has been vital during every America-involved military conflict in the last half century, and some Seabees have been killed while serving our nation, and

Whereas, among the Vermonters who are either current or former Seabees are members of the General Assembly, including one who will soon be deployed for duty, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly commemorates the 75th anniversary of the U.S. Navy Construction Battalions, the Seabees, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Seabee Museum and Memorial Park in Davisville, Rhode Island.

H.C.R. 164.

House concurrent resolution honoring former Representative Paul Harrington on his outstanding public policy career

Offered by: Representatives Ancel of Calais, Till of Jericho, Copeland-Hanzas of Bradford, Donahue of Northfield, Jessup of Middlesex, and Lippert of Hinesburg

Offered by: Senators Ayer, Lyons, and Mullin

Whereas, Paul Harrington, a U.S. Marine and Vermont Army National Guard veteran, earned degrees from Vermont Technical College, Lyndon State College, and the University of Vermont, and

Whereas, upon completing his college education, he established Paul Harrington Land Surveying and Land Planning, a business that proved merely his life career's opening chapter, and

Whereas, his three terms in the House, as the member from Middlesex, included chairing the Committee on Commerce and presiding over the development of critical health care legislation, and

Whereas, Governor Howard Dean subsequently appointed Paul Harrington to the Vermont Health Care Authority Board, and

Whereas, Paul Harrington's next career step was serving as Deputy Commissioner of Labor and Industry, working on workers' compensation and occupational safety and health-related issues, as well as serving as Assistant State Fire Marshall, and

Whereas, in 1996, U.S. Senator Jim Jeffords, recognizing the depth of Paul Harrington's interest in both health care policy and effective government, hired him as a health policy director and then the senior health care policy advisor who for the next seven years devoted his attention to health care reform issues before the U.S. Senate, and

Whereas, desiring to return home to Vermont full-time, in 2002, Paul Harrington accepted the opportunity to serve as the Executive Vice President (the Chief Executive and Financial Officer) of the Vermont Medical Society, and for the past 15 years, he has been a respected voice on health care policy, representing the Society's membership before the Executive and Legislative Branches of State government, and

Whereas, the town of Middlesex greatly benefited from Paul Harrington's civic service in municipal government as has the Episcopal Church in which he has served in important lay leadership roles, and

Whereas, In December 2017, this health care policy guru, avid runner, and greatly admired community and religious leader will conclude his tenure at the Vermont Medical Society, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors former Representative Paul Harrington on his outstanding public policy career, and be it further

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

H.C.R. 165.

House concurrent resolution congratulating the Bethel Public Library on its 125th anniversary

Offered by: Representative Haas of Rochester

Offered by: Senators Clarkson, McCormack, and Nitka

Whereas, a local public library is the gem of any civilized and cultured community, even in the digital information age, and

Whereas, the town of Bethel is extremely proud of its local public library that the Bethel Library Association established in 1892, and

Whereas, the first annual meeting of the Bethel Library Association was called to order on November 11, 1892, and the attendees elected Mr. Blaisdell as Chair, Mr. Fred Arnold as President, and, most importantly, Miss Clara A. Barrows as the Bethel Public Library's first librarian, and

Whereas, at first, the Bethel Public Library was opened only on Saturday evenings, and until 1909, it was located in the rear of the new town hall's basement, and

Whereas, to reach this out-of-the-way location necessitated the library's patrons walking past the town's jail cells that on a Saturday evening were often filled with inebriated weekend celebrants, and

Whereas, Mrs. A. Lee Cady, an early librarian, demanded that her daughter walk with her to the library, as the librarian was fearful of traversing this less-than-hospitable corridor unaccompanied, and

Whereas, in 1909, the library relocated to a large airy room on the upper floor of the former movie theater building, but that location presented new problems, as accessing it meant ascending a long exterior staircase that was challenging for older residents and often snow- and ice-covered during the winter, and

Whereas, eventually, a move to the old bank building proved far more satisfactory, and when longtime Bethel Library Association President Mary Branliere died in 1965, her generous bequest, which included the naming of an architect, facilitated the construction of a welcomed building addition, and

Whereas, although the Bethel Public Library is primarily financed through private gifts and bequests, it is designated as a public library because it receives a minimum municipal contribution and is open to all, and

Whereas, the still-thriving Bethel Public Library, under the outstanding direction of 23-year veteran librarian Cathy Day and the wise guidance of the Bethel Library Association, is celebrating its 125th anniversary during 2017, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the Bethel Public Library on its 125th anniversary, and be it further

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

H.C.R. 166.

House concurrent resolution honoring Newport City Fire Department members 1st Assistant Chief Phil Laramie, Captain Kevin LaCoss, Lieutenant Andrew Carbine, and Firefighter Ryan Abel on their heroic rescue in Coventry

Offered by: Representatives Marcotte of Coventry and Viens of Newport City

Offered by: Senators Rodgers and Starr

Whereas, the town of Coventry relies on firefighting services from the volunteer Newport City Fire Department, and on December 8, 2016, at 1:56 a.m., department members were dispatched to fight a house fire in Coventry, and

Whereas, while racing to the blaze, they received word that a resident of the home was trapped inside the burning structure, and

Whereas, immediately upon their arrival, Firefighter Ryan Abel and Captain Kevin LaCoss dashed inside the fire-engulfed residence, initiating an aggressive and daring rescue, and

Whereas, Firefighter Ryan Abel discovered the resident lying on the floor, unresponsive, and gasping for air, and

Whereas, at that point, 1st Assistant Chief Phil Laramie and Lieutenant Andrew Carbine assisted their colleagues in pulling the victim away from the heavy-smoke-filled area, and the chief, with the assistance of other department members, carried the resident to a waiting ambulance that was driven quickly to North Country Hospital where the injured individual recovered and was released, and

Whereas, 1st Assistant Chief Phil Laramie has served as a Newport City Firefighter for 20 years, has held his current departmental office for seven years, is Firefighter I certified, and is self-employed, and

Whereas, Captain Kevin LaCoss joined the department 15 years ago, was promoted to his current rank six years ago, is Firefighter I certified, and is employed at the Vermont Agency of Transportation, and

Whereas, Lieutenant Andrew Carbine was previously a career firefighter with the Burlington Fire Department, has been a Newport City volunteer firefighter for approximately four years, achieved his current rank two years ago, is Firefighter II certified, and is employed with Memphremagog Rentals, and

Whereas, Firefighter Ryan Abel has served with the department for eight years, is Firefighter II certified, and is the manager at Feed Commodities, now therefore be it

Resolved: That the General Assembly honors Newport City Fire Department members 1st Assistant Chief Phil Laramie, Captain Kevin LaCoss, Lieutenant Andrew Carbine, and Firefighter Ryan Abel, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to each of the firefighters honored in this resolution, to the Chief of the Newport City Fire Department, to the Newport City Manager, and to the Coventry Town Administrator.

H.C.R. 167.

House concurrent resolution honoring Lila M. Richardson on the completion of her distinguished career as a Vermont Legal Aid attorney

Offered by: Representative Yacovone of Morristown

Whereas, the focus of Lila Richardson's tenure as a Vermont Legal Aid attorney has been an unwavering commitment to applying the law as a means for improving social justice, and

Whereas, before embarking on her career at Vermont Legal Aid in 1978, Lila Richardson graduated magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa from Radcliffe College and earned her law degree at New York University School of Law, and

Whereas, Lila Richardson worked at four Vermont Legal Aid offices on the Senior Citizens Law Project, the Disability Law Project, and in the Office of the Health Care Advocate, representing Vermonters in a wide variety of State and federal administrative and judicial proceedings, supervising other Legal Aid attorneys, and providing legal support to public service agencies, and

Whereas, during nearly four decades, she has handled over one thousand individual and group cases on behalf of Vermonters with low income, elderly Vermonters, and Vermonters with disabilities, and

Whereas, her diverse contributions to the health and disability areas of the law have included work on the Vermont Health Access Plan, mental health parity, managed-care regulations, Medicaid coverage regulations, Medicare prescription drug coverage programs, and legislation creating the independent review panel and the health care ombudsman for Vermont consumers, and

Whereas, she devoted considerable time to serving on panels dedicated to ensuring that the State's policies and practices are in Vermonters' best interest, and

Whereas, Lila Richardson is the recipient of both the Bi-State Primary Care Association's President's Award for "outstanding contributions to assuring access to health care for vulnerable populations," and the David Goldberg Child and Youth Advocacy Award from the Vermont Children's Forum, and

Whereas, with her husband, Allen Gilbert, during a leave of absence from Vermont Legal Aid, Lila Richardson resided for three years in Eichstätt, Germany, where their first son, Sam, was born, and they had another son, Will, after they returned to the United States, and

Whereas, an avid traveler and reader, with a personal list of 648 books to be read, she is concluding her exemplary tenure at Vermont Legal Aid in order to pursue these endeavors, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors Lila M. Richardson on the completion of her distinguished career as a Vermont Legal Aid attorney, and be it further

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

H.C.R. 168.

House concurrent resolution in memory of Robert Harvey Beach Sr.

Offered by: Representatives Van Wyck of Ferrisburgh and Lanpher of Vergennes

Whereas, the lives of Bob Beach and the Basin Harbor Club (BHC), the Lake Champlain resort his family founded in the 1880s, were nearly synonymous, and

Whereas, even into his 20s, the supposedly reformed child prankster, who had availed himself of the resort's sole party line to eavesdrop on BHC guests, was still not above plotting a hilarious and mischievous deed, and

Whereas, after attending Kimball Union Academy and the University of Virginia, he served in General Patton's Third Army in Germany during World War II, and

Whereas, on returning home, having nearly outgrown his youthful deviousness, Bob Beach became BHC's ever attentive commander-in-chief, or from the perspective of the resort's young employees, the ominously omnipresent Mr. Beach, and

Whereas, as a respected figure in the hospitality industry, Bob Beach served as Vermont Hotel Association President and chaired the Resort Committee of the American Hotel and Lodging Association, and

Whereas, away from the Basin Harbor Club, he was a Master Mason affiliated with Dorchester Lodge # 1 and the Cairo Shrine Temple, and

Whereas, despite his employees' trepidation every time Bob Beach sought a private conversation, he was in reality a fun-loving individual about whom many humorous tales were told, and

Whereas, he met his wife, Merle, when she was a BHC guest, and Bob Beach set a precedent among his contemporaries to consider the BHC as the perfect place to find a life partner, and

Whereas, Bob Beach was an avid golfer, and as a prominent member of the Lake Champlain Antique and Classic Boat Society, oversaw the restoration of The Wave, a neglected 1930 vessel that he transformed into a boat show champion, and

Whereas, at almost 97 years of age, following a rewarding and exciting life, Bob Beach died on July 15, 2016, and his survivors include his children, Pennie and Robert Jr., four grandchildren, and his dear friend, Suzanne Morrow Long, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly extends its sincere condolences to the family of Robert Harvey Beach Sr., and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to each of his children, to Suzanne Long, and to the Basin Harbor Club.

H.C.R. 169.

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2016 Burlington High School Seahorses Division I championship boys' soccer team

Offered by: Representatives Ode of Burlington, Cina of Burlington, Colburn of Burlington, Donovan of Burlington, Krowinski of Burlington, McCormack of Burlington, O'Sullivan of Burlington, Rachelson of Burlington, Sullivan of Burlington, and Wright of Burlington

Offered by: Senators Baruth, Ingram, Lyons, Pearson, and Sirotkin

Whereas, perhaps no other Vermont high school athletic team was as internationally diverse as the 2016 Division I Burlington Seahorses soccer squad, featuring players representing 13 nationalities, and

Whereas, the talented Seahorses played cohesively and effectively as they brought their second-seeded standing into the Division I playoffs and proceeded to tally three shutouts prior to facing the top-seeded Essex High School Hornets in the championship game at Burlington's Buck Hard Field, and

Whereas, the Seahorses (17-1) defeated the Hornets 1-0 with a decisive second-half goal, and they won the 2016 Division I title and were ranked 15th place nationally, among over 16,000 U.S. high school soccer programs, in the Army National Guard-sponsored MaxPreps Tour of Champions, a special accomplishment recognized at a school assembly, and

Whereas, the victorious Seahorses were Madey Madey, Jakob Markle, Jonas Lobe, Julian Segar Reid, Christian Kibabu, Heritier Badibanga, Alex Dinklage, Diatourou Drame, Bienfait Badibanga, Seraphin Iradukunda, Campbell Smith, Owen Clark, Hussein Mubarak, Jake Kuypers, Nay Htet Lay, Arun Karki, Ismail Liban, Hashim Muse, Matt Burbo, Ekrem Hadzic, Abinash Rai, Niels Arentzen, Spencer McDonald, and Jonah Guth, and

Whereas, Head Coach Fran Demasi, assistant coach Josh Markle, and manager Tanner King were proud of the team's State and national recognition, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the 2016 Burlington High School Seahorses Division I championship boys' soccer team, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Burlington High School.

H.C.R. 170.

House concurrent resolution honoring Sue Duprat on her outstanding varsity athletics coaching and administrative career

Offered by: Representatives Stevens of Waterbury, Grad of Moretown, Greshin of Warren, and Wood of Waterbury

Offered by: Senators Brooks, Cummings, and Pollina

Whereas, Sue Duprat's athletic life started as a high school basketball player in Burlington and continued as a three-sport athlete at the University of Vermont from which she graduated as a double major in political science and physical education, and

Whereas, in 1976, she embarked on a 27-year career at St. Michael's College, coaching the women's basketball team and guiding the development of a robust women's intercollegiate athletics program that expanded from three to 11 sports, and

Whereas, on her 2006 induction into the New England Basketball Hall of Fame, Sue Duprat expressed her greatest pride not on her record as one of only three New England women basketball coaches to have won 300 games, but rather on the 100 percent graduation rate for the four-year members of her basketball team and of her 15 former players who became coaches, and

Whereas, after 27 successful years at St. Michael's College, Sue Duprat opted for a new professional challenge as the athletic director of Harwood Union High School in Duxbury, and

Whereas, serving as a high school athletic director entails daily interactions with divergent and at times conflicting constituencies ranging from school administrators, coaches, and other faculty members to student athletes and their occasionally over-indulgent parents, and

Whereas, in her job, Sue Duprat works to ensure a proper balance is maintained in her students' academic and athletic lives, and

Whereas, she performs her duties using the right combination of discipline, encouragement, patience, and steadfastness, and

Whereas, under Sue Duprat's careful oversight, Harwood has won many team championships, but more importantly, she has instilled the values of good sportsmanship in the Harwood athletic community, and

Whereas, after 14 demanding but fulfilling years serving as its athletic director, Harwood will bid a fond farewell, with many thanks and much appreciation, to Sue Duprat at the close of the 2016–2017 school year, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors Sue Duprat on her outstanding varsity athletics coaching and administrative career, and be it further

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

H.C.R. 171.

House concurrent resolution congratulating Lisa A.M. Atwood and Amy L. Rex on being named corecipients of the 2017 Robert F. Pierce Secondary School Principal of the Year Award

Offered by: Representatives Grad of Moretown, Greshin of Warren, Stevens of Waterbury, and Wood of Waterbury

Offered by: Senators Brooks, Cummings, and Pollina

Whereas, although arriving at their posts from different academic and career backgrounds, Lisa Atwood and Amy Rex have formed an unbeatable and widely lauded team as innovative co-principals of Harwood Union Middle- High School, and

Whereas, Lisa Atwood graduated from Worcester State College in Massachusetts and Indiana University in Bloomington, focusing on health and physical education; was a professor at Norwich University's Department of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation, coaching women's sports and serving as an assistant athletic director; joined the Harwood Union High School faculty in 1988, and in 2006 began her climb up Harwood's administrative leadership ladder, culminating in her 2012 appointment as one of the school's two co-principals, and

Whereas, Amy Rex earned degrees from the Universities of Massachusetts and of Vermont in Eastern European Studies and education; is an alumna of the Snelling Leadership Institute; and has held education positions at Johnson's Laraway School, Lamoille Union Middle School, and Danville's K–12 school, where she served as principal, and

Whereas, Harwood students have commented on their co-principals' commitment to upholding students' voices in the decision-making process, and the Atwood–Rex team pushes its professional colleagues to continue improving in the performance of their duties, and

Whereas, the co-principals' dynamic leadership initiatives have won many commendations and three support grants from the Rowland Foundation, and

Whereas, the tragic deaths of five Harwood students in an automobile accident last fall tested the co-principals in ways they could never have envisioned, and under the most trying of circumstances, they taught the students how to grieve and then to continue forward with their lives, and

Whereas, for all these reasons, Lisa Atwood and Amy Rex were each most deservedly honored as a winner of the 2017 Robert F. Pierce Secondary School Principal of the Year Award, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates Lisa A.M. Atwood and Amy L. Rex as corecipients of the 2017 Robert F. Pierce Secondary School Principal of the Year Award, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Lisa Atwood and Amy Rex.

H.C.R. 172.

House concurrent resolution congratulating Duane Pierson on receiving the 2017 Henry R. Giaguque Vermont Elementary Principal of the Year Award

Offered by: Representatives Grad of Moretown, Greshin of Warren, Stevens of Waterbury, and Wood of Waterbury

Offered by: Senators Brooks, Cummings, and Pollina

Whereas, Duane Pierson graduated from the universities of Scranton and Victoria, earned his principal's certification at the University of Vermont, and worked as an educator in Alaska and Maine before joining the Harwood Union Middle/High School faculty in 2001, and in 2005, he was appointed the school's principal, a choice that proved ideal, and

Whereas, in 2011, Duane Pierson accepted the daunting challenge of the Moretown Elementary School principal's job with the goal of revitalizing a school desperately in need of new leadership and a fresh perspective, and

Whereas, before school even opened in September 2011, Duane Pierson was confronted with the nearly unimaginable devastation of Tropical Storm Irene that flooded the school and much of the town, and

Whereas, recognizing that the students craved a sense of continuity at this difficult time, the first week of school featured daily field trips, and a tent network of classrooms was then established in the school yard until the building was ready to welcome students, and

Whereas, Duane Pierson has established the Moretown Education Center for All, known as MECA, consisting of highly praised pre-school daycare, K-6 after-school, and summer camp programs; implemented proficiency-based and personalized

education for all students; created the Moretown Messenger, a student-produced newsletter; and fostered a more cooperative relationship between the Moretown School District and the town's selectboard, and

Whereas, he has been described as an amazing human being, he transformed a school that was in crisis into a nurturing and thriving learning community, and he was recently admitted into the Snelling School Leadership program, and

Whereas, in appreciation and admiration, the Washington West Supervisory Union nominated Duane Pierson for the 2017 Henry R. Giaguque Vermont Elementary Principal of the Year Award, and the accompanying effusive letters of support from the superintendent, the local schoolboard and parent teacher network chairs, a selectboard member, and classroom teachers persuaded the selection panel to adopt this irresistible recommendation, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates Duane Pierson on receiving the 2017 Henry R. Giaguque Vermont Elementary Principal of the Year Award, and be it further

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

H.C.R. 173.

House concurrent resolution honoring the extraordinary public service and sacrifice of the Morse family of Jay and congratulating Helen (Sargent) Morse on her 95th birthday

Offered by: Representatives Higley of Lowell and Strong of Albany

Offered by: Senators Rodgers and Starr

Whereas, born in 1922, Helen (Sargent) Morse of Jay was one of six siblings born into a family connected to the Northeast Kingdom's rural land-based economy, who lived frugally and always helped less fortunate neighbors, and

Whereas, after graduating from the former North Troy High School, Helen Sargent married Glennie Morse, and the couple settled on a Morse family farm in Jay where she gave birth to seven children at home, and

Whereas, in June 1968, their son, Durwood, was drafted into the U.S. Army at the height of the Vietnam War and before deployment to Southeast Asia he predicted he would "be back in a box," and

Whereas, in an event that resulted in much sadness, on December 13, 1968, while serving in Hau Nghia Province, Private First Class Durwood Morse sustained fatal injuries from enemy fire while saving the life of his sergeant, and his survivors included his young wife, and

Whereas, on December 24, 1968, as most Americans were celebrating the heroic deeds of the Apollo 8 astronauts orbiting the moon, the citizens of Jay were remembering their own true American hero at a memorial service held in the United Church of Christ in North Troy, and

Whereas, Helen and Glennie Morse always kept their son's memory close to their hearts while serving the town of Jay in many ways, she as a town auditor and town clerk and he as road commissioner and as a member of the school board and selectboard, and

Whereas, the family's municipal public service in Jay continued as their son, Harold, is now the road commissioner, and both their daughter, Emeline, and granddaughter-in-law, Tara, held the clerk's position with distinction, and

Whereas, Helen Morse, whose husband died in 1994, celebrated her 95th birthday this year and remains the respected matriarch of a family consisting of adoring children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great grandchildren, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors the extraordinary public service and sacrifice of the Morse family of Jay and congratulates Helen (Sargent) Morse on her 95th birthday, and be it further

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

H.C.R. 174.

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2017 Harwood Union High School Highlanders State championship boys' alpine skiing team

Offered by: Representatives Stevens of Waterbury, Grad of Moretown, Greshin of Warren, and Wood of Waterbury

Offered by: Senators Brooks, Cummings, and Pollina

Whereas, although situated on the edge of the Mad River Valley, where some of Vermont's best alpine skiing courses are located, not since 2002 had Harwood Union High School won a championship in the sport that Vermonters can truly call their own, and

Whereas, the 2017 Harwood boys' alpine skiing team consisted of an extraordinary group of talented, enthusiastic, and dedicated athletes who sought to write a new page in the school's competitive alpine skiing history, and

Whereas, at the decisive State championship alpine skiing meet, the Highlander boys completed the meet's first day's slalom race holding a respectable third place, and after the giant slalom competition concluded on day 2, this cadre of strong skiers emerged with the low score (winning in alpine skiing) of 123 points; a 10-point advantage over runner-up Rutland, and

Whereas, these history-making alpine skiing Highlanders were Austin Taylor, Connor Woolley, Noah Williams, Ian Groom, Eli Moskowitz, Rex Rubinstein, Emmanuel L’Afficher, and Ian Rossi, and

Whereas, Coach Katie Westhelle instructed and motivated the boys to traverse the slopes gracefully and speedily, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the 2017 Harwood Union High School Highlanders State championship boys’ alpine skiing team, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Harwood Union High School.

H.C.R. 175.

House concurrent resolution congratulating Vermonters Brennon Crossmon, Jacobi Lafferty, and Ethan Whalen on their outstanding athletic performances at the 2017 Elks Hoop Shoot Finals

Offered by: Representatives Brennan of Colchester, Carr of Brandon, Condon of Colchester, Dakin of Colchester, Shaw of Pittsford, Taylor of Colchester, and Terenzini of Rutland Town

Offered by: Senators Collamore, Flory, Mazza, and Mullin

Whereas, the Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks and the Elks National Foundation cosponsor the Elks Hoop Shoot, a nationwide basketball shooting contests for boys and girls 8–13 years of age, and

Whereas, the contest begins with individual Elk Lodges’ shooting competitions and then proceeds to district, state, and regional rounds at which national finalists are selected, and

Whereas, three Vermont youngsters each captured the New England regional title for his age group and was awarded the opportunity to travel to Chicago for the exciting national event staged at the McGrath Arena on the campus of DePaul University, and

Whereas, Rutland Elks Lodge No. 345 sponsored Brennon Crossmon of Pittsford, a student at Otter Valley Union High School, who competed in the 12 to 13 years of age category, and represented New England with skill and determination, and

Whereas, Ethan Whalen of Rutland Town, a student at Rutland Town School, was also an entrant of Elks Lodge No. 345, competed enthusiastically in the eight to nine years of age category, and always gave the contest his maximum effort, and

Whereas, Jacobi Lafferty of Colchester attends the Colchester Middle School, entered the Elks Hoop Shoot through Burlington Elks Lodge No. 916, played extremely skillfully, and was one-third of a three-way tie with two other 10 to 11 years of age national male competitors who each succeeded at 24 of 25 shots, and

Whereas, the three 10–11-year-old boys were entered into a special tie-breaking best of 20 shooting round, and Jacobi Lafferty was the winner, and

Whereas, Jacobi Lafferty's name will be inscribed on the Hoop Shoot plaque at the Nasmith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, Massachusetts during an enshrinement ceremony, featuring a red carpet walk and the chance to meet Hall of Fame basketball players, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates Vermonters Brennon Crossmon, Jacobi Lafferty, and Ethan Whalen on their outstanding athletic performances at the 2017 Elks Hoop Shoot Finals, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to each boy honored in this resolution.

H.C.R. 176.

House concurrent resolution commemorating the centennial anniversary of the Fair Haven Grade School

Offered by: Representatives Canfield of Fair Haven, Helm of Fair Haven, and Potter of Clarendon

Offered by: Senators Collamore, Flory, and Mullin

Whereas, for the past century, students in grades kindergarten through eight have learned their ABCs and far more at the Fair Haven Grade School located east of the beautiful town park, and

Whereas, the saga of the school's construction began with the moving of a private residence—supposedly it was rolled on logs—to a new site on North Main Street where it still stands, and

Whereas, with the site cleared, the building was completed early the next year, and in April of 1917, the school's doors opened for the first time, welcoming students to their new scholastic home and marking a great occasion for the students, teachers, parents, and the entire town of Fair Haven, and

Whereas, the Fair Haven Grade School proved worthy of its intended purpose, but changing situations demanded modifications to the building, and

Whereas, in 1974, other smaller schools in Fair Haven were closed, and the building was expanded to reflect this development, and

Whereas, in the 1980s, the student population in Fair Haven grew, and the decision was made to build a new three-story wing that opened in 1989 to accommodate more youngsters, and

Whereas, recognizing the importance of energy efficiency in the 21st century, in 2007, renovations to address these concerns were implemented, while maintaining the building's overall appearance, and

Whereas, this current academic year marked the addition of pre-kindergarten instruction to the school's curriculum, and

Whereas, the Fair Haven Grade School is more than a center for educating children, as it serves as a community hub for many activities, and

Whereas, the Fair Haven Grade School has earned State recognition as an historic building that has preserved its architectural integrity and original charm, and

Whereas, in recognition of the Fair Haven Grade School's reaching its historic 100-year milestone, celebratory events are being held during the first week of May 2017, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly commemorates the centennial anniversary of the Fair Haven Grade School, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Fair Haven Grade School.

H.C.R. 177.

House concurrent resolution congratulating Grace Cottage Hospital on being recognized as one of the nation's top 20 critical access hospitals for patient satisfaction

Offered by: Representatives Long of Newfane, Burke of Brattleboro, Deen of Westminster, Gannon of Wilmington, Hebert of Vernon, Mrowicki of Putney, Olsen of Londonderry, Partridge of Windham, Sibilica of Dover, Stuart of Brattleboro, Toleno of Brattleboro, and Trieber of Rockingham

Offered by: Senators Balint and White

Whereas, since opening in 1949, Grace Cottage Hospital, with a campus centered on the former Fletcher home in Townsend, has been the epitome of an outstanding small rural critical access hospital (CAH), and

Whereas, its mission, "to serve the health care needs of our community," combined with the promise that "We Go Beyond Patient Care" were recently confirmed in a most flattering way, and

Whereas, the National Rural Health Association (NRHA) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the health of rural Americans, and

Whereas, NRHA recently issued assessments of CAHs related to patient satisfaction, quality of care, and overall institutional operations, and

Whereas, the developer of these evaluations was iVantage Health Analytics, a private health care business intelligence and technology company that has the technical resources to compile this documentation accurately and comprehensively, and

Whereas, nationwide, CAHs number in excess of 1,200 health care facilities, and

Whereas, the large number of hospitals evaluated meant the chance of a hospital earning a top 20 ranking in any of the three evaluated categories was minimal, and

Whereas, despite these formidable odds, the evaluation process documented that Grace Cottage Hospital merited placement on the top 20 list of CAHs for patient satisfaction, and

Whereas, the staff and board of Grace Cottage Hospital were thrilled to receive this well-deserved recognition that so adeptly fits its motto, and

Whereas, Grace Cottage Hospital was one of only two New England CAHs to earn a top 20 ranking in any of the three categories, and this honor is an incentive for continuing to offer the best possible health care to its patients, and

Whereas, an award ceremony honoring the formidable CAHs that earned a top 20 ranking will occur this September at the NRHA's CAH Conference in Kansas City, Missouri, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates Grace Cottage Hospital on being recognized as one of the nation's top 20 critical access hospitals for patient satisfaction, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Grace Cottage Hospital.

H.C.R. 178.

House concurrent resolution congratulating St. Johnsbury Academy on its 175th anniversary

Offered by: Representatives Beck of St. Johnsbury, Willhoit of St. Johnsbury, Ainsworth of Royalton, Cupoli of Rutland City, Deen of Westminster, Donovan of Burlington, Feltus of Lyndon, Frenier of Chelsea, Harrison of Chittenden, Hebert of Vernon, Juskiewicz of Cambridge, Lawrence of Lyndon, Lucke of Hartford, Martel of Waterford, Masland of Thetford, McCoy of Poultney, Miller of Shaftsbury, Olsen of Londonderry, Potter of Clarendon, Quimby of Concord, Scheuermann of Stowe, Sharpe of Bristol, Shaw of Pittsford, Van Wyck of Ferrisburgh, and Young of Glover

Offered by: Senators Kitchel, Benning, and Branagan

Whereas, one of Vermont's premier secondary schools is St. Johnsbury Academy (the Academy), "a diverse, comprehensive, and independent educational community," and

Whereas, Erastus, Thaddeus, and Joseph Fairbanks established the Academy in 1842 to provide "intellectual, moral, and religious training," and

Whereas, in 1873, the Academy’s leadership determined that a broader student population should be offered the school’s exemplary educational opportunities, and technical training courses were added to the curriculum, and

Whereas, coinciding with the curriculum revision, the General Assembly enacted 1874 Acts and Resolves No. 124 “An act to Incorporate The St. Johnsbury Academy,” and the named incorporators included five Fairbanks family members, William W. Thayer, and Homer T. Fuller, and

Whereas, in 2017, the Academy is home to an academic portfolio of more than 40 visual and performing arts classes, 25 Advanced Placement courses, eight technical programs, seven engineering and robotics offerings, and four foreign language options, including Japanese, and the students can choose from among 48 interscholastic teams and over 40 organized clubs and activities, and

Whereas, 70 percent of the faculty holds advanced degrees, and

Whereas, the Academy’s 43-acre, 30-building campus includes extensive academic and physical education facilities; the spacious Charles Hosmer Morse Center for the Arts, with its modern theater and specially designed art, dance, and music studios; and the multi-sport fieldhouse complex that offers public memberships, and

Whereas, the Colwell Center for Global Understanding supports internationally themed lectures and student cultural and academic exchanges, and

Whereas, the Academy’s many prominent alumni include individuals who served as governors and U.S. Senators, as well as President Calvin Coolidge, and

Whereas, in 2017, St. Johnsbury Academy is proudly commemorating the school’s 175th anniversary, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates St. Johnsbury Academy on its 175th anniversary, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to St. Johnsbury Academy.

H.C.R. 179.

House concurrent resolution honoring John Miner for his three decades of outstanding leadership in support of Vermont’s Vietnam Veterans

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, for over 30 years, Vietnam War veteran John Miner of Bennington has worked passionately and tirelessly to improve the lives and support services available to his peers and to honor the memory of those who perished while serving our nation, and

Whereas, he directed his energy and interest in this worthy cause through the Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) organization, and

Whereas, John Miner was a cofounder of the Bennington chapter and president from 1993 to 2013, and

Whereas, his local VVA work served as a foundation for his comparable statewide activities, including his tenure as the Vermont State Council President from 1996 to 2013, and

Whereas, since 2013, John Miner has represented the interests of his fellow Vietnam Veterans as the VVA Region I Director, and

Whereas, John Miner assisted Vietnam Veterans in Chester and in Keene, New Hampshire to establish local VVA chapters, and

Whereas, the creation of the nation's first Vietnam Veterans War Memorial in Sharon was in large measure the result of John Miner's perseverance, and

Whereas, when closing the Sharon interstate highway rest area, hosting the Vietnam Veterans memorial, was proposed, John Miner advocated effectively to avoid this from occurring, and

Whereas, Vietnam Veterans now conduct an annual all-night vigil in support of the memorial and our State's Vietnam veterans, and

Whereas, in partnership with his late wife, Joyce, John Miner founded the Vermont Veterans Against Drugs Campaign, and

Whereas, John Miner raised \$19,000.00 to purchase and install 55 flagpoles along the entrance drive at the Veterans' Home in Bennington, and

Whereas, he lobbied successfully for the issuance of a Patriot Medal in memory of Vermonters killed while serving in Southeast Asia, and

Whereas, John Miner is now concluding his effective and much appreciated service as the VVA Region I Director, and he has been nominated for the VVA Medal in recognition of his superb work for Vietnam Veterans, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors John Miner for his three decades of outstanding leadership in support of Vermont's Vietnam Veterans, and be it further

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

H.C.R. 180.

House concurrent resolution congratulating Mary Ellen Sennett of Bennington on her 100th birthday

Offered by: Representatives Morrissey of Bennington, Corcoran of Bennington, Fields of Bennington, and Morris of Bennington

Offered by: Senators Campion and Sears

Whereas, Mary Ellen Hogan was born in Bennington on August 28, 1917, and

Whereas, as a youngster, she attended Saint Francis De Sales Academy and then graduated from the former Bennington High School, and

Whereas, after high school graduation, Mary Hogan studied business for two years at the Bay Path Institute in Longmeadow, Massachusetts, and

Whereas, among her employers was the local draft board for whom she worked as chief clerk during World War II, and

Whereas, she later served as the secretary for the Bennington Superintendent of Schools and worked at the Allen A. Manufacturing Company, and

Whereas, in 1951, she began serving as a Red Cross volunteer at Putnam Memorial Hospital, the predecessor of today's Southwestern Vermont Medical Center, where she served as a Grey Lady for over half a century, with well over 13,000 volunteer hours, well into her ninth decade, and

Whereas, in 1955, Mary Hogan married Bennington attorney William Sennett, and she worked in his law office as his secretary, and

Whereas, Mary Sennett's Catholic faith has always been especially important in her life, and she is an active parishioner of the Sacred Heart Saint Francis de Sales Church and was a member of the Catholic Daughters of America and of the former Altar Rosary Society, and

Whereas, she, and her late husband, William, who died in 1980, had two sons, Gerald and Edward; and Mary Sennett is the stepmother of Bill, Mary, and Anne; the grandmother of Edward, Thomas, Jenifer, and Christopher; the stepgrandmother of Catherine, Courtney, Kristen, and Bill; and the great-grandmother of Adelyn; and

Whereas, on August 28, 2017, Mary Sennett will joyfully mark her 100th birthday, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates Mary Ellen Sennett on her 100th birthday and extends to her the very best wishes on this special occasion, and be it further

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

H.C.R. 181.

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2017 Thetford Academy Panthers Division III championship girls' basketball team

Offered by: Representatives Masland and Briglin of Thetford

Offered by: Senator MacDonald

Whereas, the Thetford Academy Panthers girls' basketball squad played convincingly throughout the 2017–2018 regular season, and

Whereas, Thetford advanced to the championship game at the Barre Auditorium for the fourth consecutive year, and

Whereas, the Panthers faced the first-seeded and nearby rival Windsor Yellowjackets in the championship game, a team Thetford played twice in the regular season, with each squad posting one win, and

Whereas, the Panthers maintained a five-point lead at the conclusion of the first half, and despite a second-half Windsor surge that gave the Yellowjackets a 15-point lead with only 5:45 remaining in regulation time, the Panthers' remarkable play in the final seconds netted Thetford a 53–52 win and its second Division III title in the past four years, and

Whereas, Panthers Emily Emerson, Taylor Hollis, Danielle Robinson, Brooke Horniak, Grace Davis, Dahlia Klarich, Kate Vaughan, Jordan Mousley, Nicolette Brown, Molly Higgins, Izzy Wilmott, Lily Brown, Harlee Gray, Regan Covey, and Ellen Veracka were proud of their come-from-behind victory, and

Whereas, Head Coach Eric Ward, assistant coaches Jeff Vaughan and Bridget Dugan-Sullivan, and managers Grace Veracka and Ella Farrell-Starr oversaw this resilient Panther team, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the 2017 Thetford Academy Panthers Division III championship girls' basketball team, and be it further

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

H.C.R. 182.

House concurrent resolution congratulating Arlington Memorial High School on its receipt of a 2017 *U.S. News & World Report* Best High School in America Silver Medal

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

Offered by: Senators Campion and Sears

Whereas, annually, the magazine *U.S. News & World Report* evaluates many of the nation's high schools, this year numbering 20,487, to determine which schools are most successful at meeting the educational needs of all students and not just those intending to attend college, and

Whereas, the factors the magazine's staff assesses include standardized math and reading scores, graduation rates, AP test scores, and the proficiency rates for disadvantaged students, and

Whereas, from the accumulated data, selected schools are named as Best Schools, and within this outstanding group of schools, an even more elite and smaller number of schools are awarded medals recognizing scholastic achievement that is especially noteworthy, and

Whereas, in 2017, 20 Vermont schools were honored as Best Schools and ten were further honored as silver medal winners, and

Whereas, one of the ten silver medal recipients is Arlington Memorial High School, which is the only high school in its supervisory union, and

Whereas, under the leadership of retired principal, Kerry Csizmesia, and current principal, Tim Stewart, Arlington Memorial High School has achieved great academic success, and

Whereas, the administration, faculty, and students of Arlington Memorial High School should be proud of their school's winning this national honor, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates Arlington Memorial High School on its receipt of a 2017 *U.S. News & World Report* Best High School in America Silver Medal, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Arlington Memorial High School.

H.C.R. 183.

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2016 St. Johnsbury Babe Ruth League 13-years-of-age State championship baseball team

Offered by: Representatives Quimby of Concord, Beck of St. Johnsbury, Conquest of Newbury, Martel of Waterford, Troiano of Stannard, and Willhoit of St. Johnsbury

Offered by: Senators Benning and Kitchel

Whereas, the 2016 13-years-of-age St. Johnsbury Babe Ruth League baseball team, with members from the towns of Concord, Hardwick, and St. Johnsbury, as well as students from the Blue Mountain Union School District, was an outstanding

group of young players who focused in every game on improving their hitting and defensive skills, and

Whereas, these boys' innate baseball talent no doubt added to their success on the field, and

Whereas, at the 2016 State tournament, the St. Johnsbury team, in a best-of-three series, defeated the Burlington Babe Ruth Baseball 13-years-of-age squad in two consecutive games, 8–7 and 11–6, to win the State title and a berth in the New England tournament that was played in Rochester, New Hampshire, and

Whereas, although the Vermonters did not win the New England championship, they can be proud of their on-field accomplishments, and

Whereas, the dedicated boys who played so well throughout the 2016 season were Isaiah Priest, Geoffrey Hauver, Chandler Labounty, Braeden Beck, Daegan Ignjatovic, Zander Stone, Arlo Aldrich, Collin Punderson, Finn Rooney, Jordan Quimby, Dane Buckingham, and Jack Cushman, and

Whereas, team manager Mike Quimby and coaches Mirko Ignjatovic and Bruce Cushman were especially impressed with the team's cohesive effort and spirit, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the 2016 St. Johnsbury Babe Ruth League 13-years-of-age State championship baseball team, and be it further

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

H.C.R. 184.

House concurrent resolution congratulating Lucinda Storz of Kirby on winning her third consecutive Vermont Scripps Spelling Bee championship

Offered by: Representatives Quimby of Concord, Beck of St. Johnsbury, Feltus of Lyndon, Lawrence of Lyndon, Martel of Waterford, Toll of Danville, and Willhoit of St. Johnsbury

Offered by: Senators Benning and Kitchel

Whereas, the Barre-Montpelier Times Argus/Rutland Herald, Fairpoint Communications, and the Vermont Humanities Council sponsor and the Vermont Principals' Association facilitates the annual Vermont Scripps Spelling Bee, and

Whereas, Lucy Storz of Kirby, an eighth grader at the Thaddeus Stevens School in Lyndon Center, is undoubtedly Vermont's most accomplished middle school speller, and

Whereas, this conscientious and dedicated student is passionate in her quest to

master the spelling of words both familiar and rarely spoken, and

Whereas, in pursuit of this endeavor that has broadened the scope of her lexicological knowledge, Lucy Storz has won her school's annual spelling bee every year since first grade, and

Whereas, in more recent years, Lucy Storz has set her sights beyond her own school's contest with championship appearances at the 2015 and 2016 Vermont Scripps Spelling Bee, and

Whereas, as an eighth grader in 2017, Lucy Storz was excited to compete for her final year of eligibility in this challenging competition, and

Whereas, after securing the Thaddeus Stevens's spelling bee's title, she began her intensive review of a 1,000-word list used to prepare for the Vermont Scripps Spelling Bee conducted at St. Michael's College, and

Whereas, once again, Lucy Storz persevered as she outspelled the other student participants through 28 grueling rounds, winning on the correct spelling of tsunami and having spelled geranium and wainscot along the way to clinching this impressive victory, and

Whereas, Lucy Storz's State success entitles her to represent Vermont at the Scripps National Spelling Bee to be held on May 31 and June 1 near Washington, D.C., and she eagerly anticipates this third opportunity to demonstrate her spelling prowess before a national audience, and

Whereas, although her older brother, Walker, won the championship once and her sister, Sammy, once placed second, Lucy is possibly the only Vermonter to earn first place honors on three occasions, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates Lucinda Storz of Kirby on winning her third consecutive Vermont Scripps Spelling Bee championship and extends best wishes for her appearance in the national event, and be it further

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

H.C.R. 185.

House concurrent resolution thanking David and June Keenan of Essex for their generous donation to the State House art collection of a Keith Rocco print depicting the Battle of Cedar Creek

Offered by: Representatives Dunn of Essex, Bancroft of Westford, Giambatista of Essex, Houghton of Essex, Myers of Essex, and Devereux of Mount Holly

Whereas, the Battle of Cedar Creek, in Virginia, was a critical Civil War battle in October 1864 that secured the strategic Shenandoah Valley for the Union, ending any

further Confederate threat on Washington, D.C., and

Whereas, the Eighth Vermont, Tenth Vermont, and First Vermont Cavalry all played key roles in the Battle of Cedar Creek, and the Eighth Vermont sustained a loss of two-thirds of its men in a surprise Confederate attack that was often fought hand-to-hand in fog-enshrouded conditions, and

Whereas, the Civil War Trust is “a nonprofit organization devoted to the preservation of America’s hallowed battlegrounds” primarily related to the Civil War, and

Whereas, in 2017, the Civil War Trust is conducting a fundraising campaign to save four Civil War battlefields, including land associated with the Battle of Cedar Creek, and

Whereas, artist Keith Rocco recently painted, for the National Park Service’s Cedar Creek Battlefield Park, a colorful piece entitled “*Rally on the Battery!*”(Middletown Cemetery—The Battle of Cedar Creek) that is on display at Mt. Carmel Cemetery, the modern name for Middletown Cemetery, and

Whereas, the Civil War Trust is offering a limited edition print of this painting to major contributors to the campaign, and

Whereas, two of these major donors were David and June Keenan of Essex who are devotees of Civil War history and especially Vermont’s role in the war, and

Whereas, the Keenans have donated their copy of this colorful print to the State House art collection where it will complement the 19th century Civil War paintings of Julian Scott, and

Whereas, the Keenans’ gift represents a generous and most welcomed donation to the State House’s artistic portfolio, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly thanks David and June Keenan of Essex for their generous donation to the State House art collection of a Keith Rocco print depicting the Battle of Cedar Creek, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to David and June Keenan in Essex.

H.C.R. 186.

House concurrent resolution in memory of Vermont skiing legend Wendell Cram

Offered by: Representatives Keefe of Manchester, Gannon of Wilmington, Kimbell of Woodstock, Olsen of Londonderry, Scheuermann of Stowe, Sibilias of Dover, and Sullivan of Dorset

Offered by: Senators Campion, Sears, Clarkson, and Nitka

Whereas, Wendell (Wendy) Cram was born on January 15, 1921 in Bridgewater,

not far from the site of Bunny Bertram's 1934, first-in-the-nation alpine ski rope tow at Woodstock's Gilbert Hill, and

Whereas, he used long wooden skis and ski poles constructed from wooden dowels, and Wendy evolved quickly into an excellent ski racer, and

Whereas, in 1936, Bunny Bertram established a Model T-engine-powered rope tow at the far steeper Suicide Six, and

Whereas, in 1937, learning of amazing records being set at European courses with ski lifts, Wendy Cram decided to set a one-day record at the 325-foot Suicide Six ski drop and, with special modifications improving tow access and speed, skied more than 100 runs, a record that may still stand, and

Whereas, he graduated from Woodstock High School and Norwich University, and

Whereas, Wendy Cram earned a spot on the 1940 U.S. Winter Olympic Skiing team, but that Olympics was cancelled due to the war in Europe, and

Whereas, during World War II, Wendy Cram served as a ski instructor in the elite U.S. Army's 10th Mountain Division, although never deployed, and

Whereas, following the war's conclusion, he headed to Sun Valley, Idaho, where he worked as a ski instructor and was awarded a Diamond Sun pin for completing that two-mile race course in a mere one minute, 47 seconds, and

Whereas, on returning to Vermont, Wendy Cram operated Wendy's Ski Shop in Manchester, and he served as president of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce, and

Whereas, Wendy Cram was a popular ski instructor at Stratton, a lifetime member of the Professional Ski Instructors of America, and a Vermont Ski and Snowboarding Museum Hall of Fame inductee, and

Whereas, he was an enthusiastic bicyclist into his 90s, and in 2009, Manchester's first bikeway was named in his honor, and

Whereas, Wendy Cram died on April 30, 2017, and his survivors include his nieces and nephews, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly extends its sincere condolences to the family of Wendell Cram, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Wendy Cram's nephew Allan Cram, to local alpine ski areas, and to the Vermont Ski and Snowboarding Museum in Stowe.

H.C.R. 187.

House concurrent resolution congratulating Stephen Rice on winning the 2016 Arthur Williams Award for Meritorious Service to the Arts

Offered by: Representatives Toleno of Brattleboro, Burke of Brattleboro, Stuart of Brattleboro, Belaski of Windsor, Deen of Westminster, Gannon of Wilmington, Long of Newfane, Mrowicki of Putney, Olsen of Londonderry, Partridge of Windham, Sibilias of Dover, and Trieber of Rockingham

Offered by: Senators Balint and White

Whereas, the Vermont Arts Council (VAC) annually honors a Vermonter or Vermont organization that has a record of meritorious artistic service, and

Whereas, the recipient of this distinguished award must have earned an independently achieved statewide reputation for excellence in an artistic endeavor and have at least one non-VAC-associated nominator, and

Whereas, the 2016 winner of the Arthur Williams Award is Brattleboro music educator Stephen Rice who holds bachelor's and master's degrees in music education from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, and

Whereas, he began his career at Brattleboro Union High School in 1987 as an instrumental music teacher, and in 2004 was deservedly named chair of the school's music department, and

Whereas, another component of his public school teaching tenure was directing middle school bands at the Brattleboro Area Middle School from 1994 to 2000, and

Whereas, Stephen Rice's diverse leadership roles in the Vermont Music Educators Association (VMEA) have included serving on the VMEA Benchmarking Project, managing the All-State Band, and leading various ensembles for VMEA District VI, and

Whereas, he has also been active in the Vermont Alliance for Arts Education, and in 2003, the organization honored him for his leadership in the arts, and

Whereas, in 2009, the Connecticut Valley District Music Festival Association named Stephen Rice as the organization's teacher of the year, and

Whereas, Stephen Rice has served as a guest conductor, adjudicator, and clinician at many regional music festivals, and

Whereas, beyond the educational milieu, Steven Rice is an accomplished percussionist who has performed with professional and community ensembles, and

Whereas, Stephen Rice is dedicated to making his students part of the Brattleboro area music community and is an excellent choice to be presented this honor, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates Stephen Rice on winning the 2016 Arthur Williams Award for Meritorious Service to the Arts, and be it further

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

H.C.R. 188.

House concurrent resolution congratulating former Fire Chief Ronald P. Lindsey Sr. on the 50th anniversary of his service with the Shaftsbury Fire Department

Offered by: Representatives Miller of Shaftsbury and Morrissey of Bennington

Offered by: Senators Campion and Sears

Whereas, from the first day in 1967 when Ronald Lindsey responded to the call to douse a blaze, he has been a dedicated and proud volunteer member of the Shaftsbury Fire Department, and

Whereas, during the course of his tenure, the science of firefighting has evolved with the introduction of new technologies and equipment, but the fundamentals of responding at all hours of the day and night have remained consistent, and

Whereas, in an administrative capacity, he has held the secretary-treasurer's position for his fire department, and

Whereas, at the front line of command, Ronald Lindsey has served as the department's assistant chief and for a decade-long term (1978–1988), he was honored to be the department's effective and respected chief, and

Whereas, aside from his continuing commitment to being a member of Shaftsbury's firefighting brigade, Ronald Lindsey devoted five years (1972–1977) to serving on the Shaftsbury Zoning and Planning Board, and

Whereas, he is a member of the Norshaft Lions Club and served as a coach for its Little League baseball team, and

Whereas, for 29 years, Ronald Lindsey worked as a quality control manager for Johnson Control and then served as a site quality manager for Chemfab, and

Whereas, Ronald and Rosemary Lindsey have been married for 54 years, are the parents of Ronald P. Lindsey Jr. and Mark Hogan Lindsey, and the grandparents of four, and

Whereas, even after a half-century of dedicated and hard-working volunteer firefighting service, Ronald Lindsey remains an active and enthusiastic member of Shaftsbury Fire Department, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates former Fire Chief Ronald P. Lindsey Sr. on the 50th anniversary of his service with the Shaftsbury Fire Department, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Ronald Lindsey and to the Shaftsbury Fire Department.

H.C.R. 189.

House concurrent resolution honoring Duane “Buster” Bandy of Windsor for his outstanding municipal public service

Offered by: Representatives Belaski of Windsor and Bartholomew of Hartland

Whereas, Buster Bandy’s ties to the town of Windsor are lifelong, and he attended Windsor High School, and

Whereas, immediately upon graduating, Buster Bandy accepted employment with the Windsor Utilities Department (the department) and is the town’s longest-serving municipal employee, and

Whereas, as a technician charged with helping to ensure safe drinking water and effective solid waste management procedures, he addresses critical public health concerns for all of Windsor’s residents, and

Whereas, as a 41-year municipal employee, Buster Bandy is extremely skilled and knowledgeable, assists co-workers with less experience, and, when assigned to a specific project, completes his duties timely and correctly, and

Whereas, Buster Bandy’s presence in the department has always been valued highly, and his exemplary work ethic serves as a model for others, and

Whereas, he is a good neighbor and friend to many members of the Windsor community, and

Whereas, on June 1, 2017, Buster Bandy will be concluding his long and distinguished career as a Windsor municipal employee, and his contribution to the department’s operations and his reliability, as well as his daily presence, will be missed, and

Whereas, in commemoration of Buster Bandy’s laudable work, the Town of Windsor is honoring his career accomplishments, and a similar legislative recognition is also in order, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors Duane “Buster” Bandy of Windsor for his outstanding municipal public service in the town of Windsor, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Buster Bandy in Windsor.

H.C.R. 190.

House concurrent resolution honoring Robert Mason for his unique leadership in the Chittenden South Supervisory Union

Offered by: Representatives Brumsted of Shelburne, Lippert of Hinesburg, Macaig of Williston, McCullough of Williston, Webb of Shelburne, and Yantachka of Charlotte

Offered by: Senators Lyons and Ingram

Whereas, Bob Mason has a long and distinguished association with the Chittenden South Supervisory Union (CSSU), as both a dedicated citizen volunteer and CSSU's chief operations officer (COO), and

Whereas, when he became a member of the Champlain Valley Union High School (CVU) Board in the 1990s, extended 21st-century service as CSSU's COO was not on his immediate personal horizon, and

Whereas, his four-year membership on the board included a term as chair during 1993–1994 when CVU, CSSU's only high school, completed a major renovation, and the board provided oversight on the implementation of other important projects, and

Whereas, the completion of board service might typically have concluded an individual's working association with the supervisory union, but for Bob Mason it provided a foundation and a unique perspective that he drew upon while serving as the CSSU-COO, and

Whereas, as a former CVU Board member and CSSU's financial affairs expert, Bob Mason appreciated the role of board members, patiently answering their questions during budgetary cycles, and his supportive guidance helped facilitate 98 budgets for all the CSSU districts, and

Whereas, recently, Bob Mason was instrumental in the successful vote to consolidate the separate CSSU school districts into the Champlain Valley School district, and

Whereas, his familiar telephone voice meant a day of students celebrating no school on account of inclement weather, and

Whereas, Bob Mason became an instant friend to all and maintained a steady sense of good humor and professional disposition even during turbulent school board meetings, and

Whereas, after an exemplary performance for 14 years, Bob Mason, who set the standard for civic-mindedness, is completing his tenure as CSSU-COO with much appreciation from his community for a job well done, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors Robert Mason for his unique leadership in the Chittenden South Supervisory Union, and be it further

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

S.C.R. 14.

By Senators Nitka, Clarkson, and McCormack,

By Representative Kimbell of Woodstock

Senate concurrent resolution recognizing the establishment of the Coolidge Scholars Program and congratulating the first class of Coolidge Scholars.

Whereas, the Calvin Coolidge Presidential Foundation of Plymouth Notch (the Foundation) has established the Coolidge Scholars Program that seeks students who excel in academics, express an interest in public policy and Coolidge values, and display humility and leadership, and

Whereas, for the first class of scholars, the Foundation awarded three scholarships, financing all aspects of the recipients' four-year college education, and

Whereas, the initial call for applications attracted 12,500 responses, 2,360 students completed the full application process of whom 223 were their class valedictorians, 22 percent ranked in the top one percent of their class, and 100 semifinalists, known as Coolidge Senators, were selected, and

Whereas, the final decisions were challenging for the judging panel that Dr. Bruce Cole, a former National Endowment for the Humanities chair, headed, and

Whereas, the Foundation aspires eventually to welcome 20 new scholars for every academic year, and the scholars will participate in a summer orientation at Plymouth Notch and other educational seminars as members of the Coolidge Scholars Leadership Program, as well as serving as advisors in the Foundation's student debate program, and

Whereas, the three first recipients of Coolidge Scholarships are Regan Brady (Hathaway Brown School in Shaker Heights, Ohio) who, despite being born with a severe hearing disability, has a record of laudable scholastic and extracurricular achievements, including designation as an AP scholar and engaging in many civic and fundraising activities focused on children with auditory impairments and other physical disabilities; Joshua Moriarty (Hunter College High School in New York City) who has won prestigious debate tournaments and major academic awards, co-edits the school's newspaper, is a member of his school's student senate, and volunteers with an organization serving the elderly; and Samuel Reddick (Evangelical Christian School in Cordova, Tennessee) who is a top Latin scholar, a National Scrabble Championship participant, an accomplished French horn player, a superb school and community soccer player, and a volunteer at the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly recognizes the establishment of the Coolidge Scholars Program and congratulates the first class of Coolidge Scholars, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send copies of this resolution to the Calvin Coolidge Presidential Foundation and to each Coolidge Scholar honored in this resolution.

S.C.R. 15.

Whereas, John Brown was born in 1800 in Torrington, Connecticut, into a Calvinist family, and his religious upbringing was the foundation for his ardent abolitionism during the decades preceding the Civil War, and

Whereas, his abolitionist commitment was further engrained following his 1847 meeting with the abolitionist leader, Frederick Douglass, and

Whereas, in 1849, John Brown demonstrated his solidarity with African Americans when he settled in the black community of North Elba, New York, and

Whereas, there is evidence that John Brown spent time in Cavendish, Vermont, in 1857, working with local abolitionists, and

Whereas, in furtherance of his dream for a state of free blacks in the southern Appalachians, on October 16, 1859, John Brown led a raid, taking hostages and freeing slaves in the process, on the federal armory at Harper's Ferry, Virginia (now West Virginia), and

Whereas, John Brown's raid, which resulted in 17 deaths, ended on October 18 after a contingent of U.S. Marines, under the leadership of U.S. Colonel Robert E. Lee, stormed the armory, resulting in Brown's capture, and

Whereas, following an expedited trial and a verdict of guilty, John Brown was hanged on December 2, 1859, and his widow, accompanying his remains, spent time in Rutland en route to her husband's upstate New York burial, and

Whereas, on the weekend of October 14, 2017, a community group in Woodstock, Vermont, under the leadership of Sonny Saul, Quincy Saul, and Brad Archer is holding a weekend of commemorative events in Woodstock, both to remember the Harper's Ferry Raid as an important event in the fight to end slavery in the United States and to raise awareness and educate the public about all aspects of contemporary racism, and

Whereas, artists, musicians, historians, writers, and representatives from the Vermont chapter of Black Lives Matters and Vermonters for Criminal Justice

will be contributing to this weekend of historic and contemporary programs on race relations in the United States, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly designates October 16, 2017 as John Brown Day in Vermont, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Sonny Saul in Woodstock.