

**No. R-25. House concurrent resolution congratulating American Legion Pierce Lawton Post #37 in Bellows Falls on its centennial.**

(H.C.R.18)

Offered by: Representatives Partridge of Windham, Trieber of Rockingham, Hashim of Dummerston, and Mrowicki of Putney

Whereas, in 1919, in the aftermath of the First World War, Congress chartered and incorporated the American Legion as a “patriotic veterans organization” devoted to mutual helpfulness, and the national charter led to the establishment of local American Legion posts, and

Whereas, also in 1919, American Legion Pierce Lawton Post #37 in Bellows Falls submitted its preliminary charter to the national organization, and a permanent charter was issued in 1920, and

Whereas, Post #37 was named in memory of Bellows Falls native William G. Pierce, a member of Company E, 1st Vermont Infantry, who was killed in action on April 20, 1918, and

Whereas, the membership of Post #37 selected World War I veteran Captain Thomas J. Brickley to serve as its initial commander, and

Whereas, the State Armory served as the organization’s original headquarters and, after several moves, in 1954, Post #37 purchased the Dreamland Theatre to serve as its home, and

Whereas, Post #37 established a drum and bugle corps in 1929, and

Whereas, the Post #37 American Legion baseball team won the State championship in 1964 and again in 2006 and can claim Boston Red Sox Hall of Fame catcher Carleton “Pudge” Fisk as a team alumnus, and

Whereas, in 1990, Carol Anne Spaulding was the first woman elected to serve as Post #37 commander, and

Whereas, on the statewide departmental level, women from Post #37 have served as leaders of the American Legion Auxiliary, and the post has both hosted the State convention and been the recipient of special recognition, and

Whereas, especially noteworthy for Post #37 was the 2004 selection of Linda Mclean Perham as an American Legion National Vice Commander, and

Whereas, more recently, using national American Legion resources, local interviews, and archival materials, she has organized the first comprehensive historical collection of Post #37 documentation, and it will be exhibited at a centennial celebration on April 20, 2019, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates American Legion Pierce Lawton Post #37 in Bellows Falls on its centennial and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to American Legion Pierce Lawton Post #37 in Bellows Falls.