

No. R-26. House concurrent resolution congratulating Vermont Army National Guard Sergeant First Class Damien Larose of Westford for his fire rescue bravery.

(H.C.R.19)

Offered by: Representatives Till of Jericho, Bancroft of Westford, and Squirrell of Underhill

Whereas, Vermont Army National Guard Sergeant First Class Damien Larose of Westford is a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps, and

Whereas, his military training served him well in a recent successful fire rescue effort, and

Whereas, on the morning of December 28, 2018, while driving home, Sergeant Larose spotted smoke that did not resemble typical chimney smoke rising from a house, and

Whereas, concerned, he stopped his truck and called 911, and

Whereas, in response to a dispatcher's inquiry as to whether anyone was at home, Sergeant Larose replied that he would go inside and check, and

Whereas, running to the front door, he discovered it locked, but fearful that someone was inside the structure, Sergeant Larose ran around the house, yelling and banging on every door until he found an unlocked porch door, and

Whereas, upon opening the door, he encountered smoke that was overwhelming, and

Whereas, after initially backing off, Sergeant Larose felt compelled to take a second look, and

Whereas, five or six feet away from where he was standing, billowing smoke threatened a woman lying on the floor, and he was uncertain if she was alive, and

Whereas, picking up an available shovel, Sergeant Larose smashed a window, enabling the room to be ventilated, and

Whereas, taking a deep breath, he dashed inside the house, grabbed the woman who, despite experiencing breathing difficulties, amazingly, was alive, and

Whereas, after bringing the woman to his truck, Sergeant Larose placed his coat over her and waited for an ambulance's arrival, and

Whereas, when asked why he risked his life to save a stranger, the Vermont Army National Guardsman answered that were he in a similar situation, he hoped another person would assist him, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates Vermont Army National Guard Sergeant First Class Damien Larose of Westford for his fire rescue bravery, and be it further

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