

No. R-64. House concurrent resolution congratulating Thetford Academy on the observance of its bicentennial.

(H.C.R.52)

Offered by: Representatives Briglin of Thetford and Masland of Thetford

Whereas, the illustrious history of Thetford Academy can be traced over two centuries, and

Whereas, the citizens of the town of Thetford organized the school under the leadership of Reverend Asa Burton and Judge Simeon Short, and

Whereas, in an unusually progressive decision for the early 19th century, the organizers of Thetford Academy chose to operate the school as a full-time, coeducational institution, and

Whereas, the academy's founders sought immediate State recognition for their new school, and the General Assembly granted Thetford Academy a charter on October 29, 1819, and

Whereas, an early description of the school specified its location as in "the pleasant and quiet village of Thetford, Vt., two miles from the Connecticut and Passumpsic Railroad," and

Whereas, the same description stated that "the society is characterized by intelligence and morality, and a deep interest is felt in the welfare of the students and the prosperity of the school," and

Whereas, Thetford Academy was divided into English and classical departments, and instruction was given in the "Elementary and Higher English Branches," and it was intended to "excite in the mind of the pupil a love of study," with the goal of preparing students for college admission, and

Whereas, one of Thetford Academy's most illustrious 19th-century alumni was Vermont U.S. Representative and Senator Justin Morrill, the author of the 1862 Morrill Land-Grant College Act, and

Whereas, when Thetford Academy became an approved secondary school in 1908 following a change in State education law, the curriculum was revised to serve the broader educational requirements of the town's youths, and not only of those youngsters preparing for higher education, and

Whereas, after the original campus was destroyed by a devastating fire in 1942, the school relocated within the town of Thetford and today is proud of its outstanding campus, featuring excellent academic, athletic, and cultural facilities, and

Whereas, to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the State's oldest secondary school, on Friday, February 8, 2019, an official State historic marker was dedicated at the school's original site, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates Thetford Academy on the observance of its bicentennial, and be it further

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