

State of Vermont House of Representatives



Montpelier, Vermont

Concurrent House Resolution

H.C.R. 38

House concurrent resolution commemorating the bicentennial of Norwich University

Offered by: Representatives Donahue of Northfield, Goslant of Northfield, and Grad of Moretown

Offered by: Senators Cummings, Perchlik, and Pollina

Whereas, West Point graduate, professor, and superintendent Captain Alden Partridge developed a philosophy for military education centered on the concept of “enlightened and useful citizen-soldiers,” and

Whereas, in 1819, Alden Partridge established the American Literary, Scientific and Military Academy, the nation’s first private military college, located in his hometown of Norwich, intending to instill in future military officers a strong appreciation for the precepts of the U.S. Constitution, and

Whereas, in 1823, the academy relocated to Middletown, Connecticut, but by 1829, the school had returned to Norwich, and in 1834, the General Assembly chartered the Academy as Norwich University with a requirement that the school offer “military training that was both theoretical and practical,” and

Whereas, following a devastating 1866 fire, many citizens of Northfield offered to finance the University’s move to their community and the construction of a new campus, and some of the bricks from the former campus are now incorporated into the entryway floor of the Kreitzberg Library, and

Whereas, Norwich University’s curriculum served as an educational model for the Morrill Land-Grant Act, which Vermont U.S. Representative Justin Morrill proposed in 1862, and in 1916, the school established the nation’s first Reserve Officer Training Corps unit, and

Whereas, Norwich University has become an internationally respected institution of higher education, with a student body that since the 1972 merger with Vermont College has included women, and

Whereas, in anticipation of the University’s 200th anniversary, noted author Alex Kershaw has written a commemorative history entitled *Citizens & Soldiers: The First 200 Years of Norwich University*, and proceeds from the “Forging the Future” bicentennial campaign have funded renovations to the Kreitzberg Library and the construction of a new academic center known as Mack Hall, and

Whereas, in celebration of its bicentennial, Norwich University has designated the 2018–2019 academic year as the Year of Distinction, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly commemorates the bicentennial of Norwich University, and be it further

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