

State of Vermont

House of Representatives



Montpelier, Vermont

Concurrent House Resolution

H.C.R. 121

House concurrent resolution commemorating the placement of the third statue of Agriculture atop the State House dome and honoring its creators, sculptors Chris Miller and Jerry Williams

Offered by: Offered by: Representatives Ancel of Calais, Anthony of Barre City, Austin of Colchester, Bartholomew of Hartland, Beck of St. Johnsbury, Brennan of Colchester, Browning of Arlington, Campbell of St. Johnsbury, Canfield of Fair Haven, Coffey of Guilford, Colston of Winooski, Cordes of Lincoln, Demrow of Corinth, Dolan of Waitsfield, Donahue of Northfield, Donovan of Burlington, Emmons of Springfield, Giambatista of Essex, Goslant of Northfield, Grad of Moretown, Hooper of Montpelier, Hooper of Burlington, James of Manchester, Jessup of Middlesex, Killacky of South Burlington, Kitzmiller of Montpelier, Kornheiser of Brattleboro, LaClair of Barre Town, LaLonde of South Burlington, Long of Newfane, Masland of Thetford, McCarthy of St. Albans City, McFaun of Barre Town, Noyes of Wolcott, O'Brien of Tunbridge, Ode of Burlington, Patt of Worcester, Redmond of Essex, Rogers of Waterville, Scheu of Middlebury, Scheuermann of Stowe, Seymour of Sutton, Squirrell of Underhill, Stevens of Waterbury, Sullivan of Burlington, Till of Jericho, Toleno of Brattleboro, Walz of Barre City, White of Hartford, and Young of Greensboro

Offered by: Senators Ashe, Benning, Cummings, Kitchel, Mazza, McNeil, Perchlik, and Pollina

Whereas, in 1858, the State commissioned the young Brattleboro sculptor Larkin Mead to create a wooden statue representing agriculture, and

Whereas, the figure he created cradled a sheaf of wheat in her left arm and carried a scroll in her right hand to symbolize a legally governed agrarian society, and it was hoisted atop the dome of the new, third State House, and

Whereas, the statue, though popularly referred to as Ceres, the Roman goddess of plenty, has never been officially so named, and

Whereas, Larkin Mead's creation survived Vermont's brutal winters for 80 years, and in 1938, State House Sergeant at Arms Dwight Dwinell, with the support of two State House janitors, whittled a replacement, and

Whereas, 80 years later, in 2018, when the statue was lowered to the ground in anticipation of a major State House dome restoration, a replacement statue was viewed as a necessity, and

Whereas, Chris Miller, the artistic proprietor of Chris Miller Studio in Calais and who has completed important sculptural commissions, was one of the sculptors chosen for this historic project, and

Whereas, his artistic partner was Jerry Williams of Johnson, who operates the Barre Sculpture Studios, a firm that creates "figurative works for monument retailers, churches and civic organizations" throughout the northeastern states, and

Whereas, as a first step in the artistic process, Jerry Williams created a clay model, based on blurry photos of the original statue and Larkin Mead's illustrations, and

Whereas, with these photos as a guide, Chris Miller, using resilient mahogany wood and working long days, sculpted a 2,000-pound, 14-and-one-half-foot statue of Agriculture, which it is hoped will last 150 years, and

Whereas, Vermonters were welcomed to watch these artists at work as they created the new statue at their special location at the Vermont Granite Museum, and

Whereas, on November 30, 2018, in an impressive and well-attended ceremony, the third statue of Agriculture was hoisted, on schedule, to its new home atop the restored State House dome, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly commemorates the placement of the third statue of Agriculture atop the State House dome and honors its creators, sculptors Chris Miller and Jerry Williams, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to each of the sculptors, the Vermont Granite Museum, and the Friends of the Vermont State House.