

State of Vermont House of Representatives



Montpelier, Vermont

Concurrent House Resolution

H.C.R. 157

House concurrent resolution congratulating the Fairbanks Museum & Planetarium on its 125th anniversary of conducting continuous meteorological services

Offered by: Representatives Beck of St. Johnsbury, Campbell of St. Johnsbury, Feltus of Lyndon, Martel of Waterford, Quimby of Concord, Seymour of Sutton, and Toll of Danville

Offered by: Senators Benning and Kitchel

Whereas, in the mid-1800s, St. Johnsbury resident Franklin Fairbanks recorded daily weather data and general meteorological observations, and

Whereas, in 1891, he established the Fairbanks Museum, which in 1961, became the Fairbanks Museum & Planetarium (the museum), and

Whereas, shortly after the museum opened, it began collecting meteorological information for the newly established U.S. Weather Bureau, and since 1894 it has continuously gathered these contemporaneously useful and historically revealing statistics, and

Whereas, because of these pioneering commitments to gathering weather information, St. Johnsbury proudly holds the record as the Vermont community with the longest uninterrupted stream of weather data, and

Whereas, in 1949, the museum's meteorological activities assumed a different dimension when its director, Fred Mold, commenced broadcasting weather forecasts on what has become St. Johnsbury radio station WSTJ, and

Whereas, in 1981, Vermont's weather analysis entered an exciting, new era when the museum established the *Eye on the Sky* forecasting service and hired two full-time meteorologists, Mark Breen and Steve Maleski, not only to broadcast daily forecasts on Vermont Public Radio (VPR), but also to serve as weather science educators and present informative shows at the museum's planetarium, and

Whereas, the *Eye on the Sky* meteorological staff, now including Lawrence Hayes and Chris Kurdek, also produces the VPR astronomy program, *Eye on the Night Sky*, and weather forecasts for several commercial radio stations and newspapers, and its website features current forecasts, monthly weather almanacs, and a treasure trove of historical weather data, and

Whereas, in the early 2000s, the museum presented an *Eye on the Sky* Weather Gallery, and elements of the gallery are now featured in the Soucy Family Exploration Station, and

Whereas, since 2016, the *Eye on the Sky* has been headquartered in the architecturally and technologically state-of-the-art McGuire Center, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the Fairbanks Museum & Planetarium on its 125th anniversary of conducting continuous meteorological services, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Fairbanks Museum & Planetarium and to each of the *Eye on the Sky* staffers.