

No. R-213. House concurrent resolution congratulating E.J. Barrette & Sons Inc. of Swanton on its centennial.

(H.C.R. 140)

Offered by: Representatives Norris of Sheldon and Walker of Swanton

Whereas, E. J. (Jeffrey) Barrette was born in 1891, and in 1922, his long fascination with the horseless carriage, by then known as the automobile, inspired him to secure a dealership from the Ford Motor Company and open his new business on the western side of Canada Street in Swanton, and

Whereas, popular legend relates that the Barrette family patriarch, who sold his first car, a Model T, on February 22, 1922, taught his early customers how to drive, sold them a car, and then administered the driver's license examination, and

Whereas, in 1930, the business's success prompted him to move the dealership to a more suitable building on the eastern side of Canada Street; in 1955, with his son Weldon having joined the operation, it was incorporated as E.J. Barrette & Sons Inc.; and, a few years after the senior Barrette's death in 1979, the business, popularly known as Barrette Ford, moved to a new and spacious facility outside the Village of Swanton on Route 78, and

Whereas, prior to his death in 2012, Weldon had brought his son, Jon, into the business, and the dealership's leadership team now includes Jon's wife, Linda, his sister, Paula, and the fourth Barrette generation, his children Aaron, Meredith, and Sarah, and

Whereas, in recognition of Barrette Ford's operational excellence, the Ford Motor Company recently honored its second-oldest Vermont dealership with its President's Award, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates E.J. Barrette & Sons Inc. of Swanton on its centennial, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to E.J. Barrette & Sons in Swanton.