

**No. R-226. House concurrent resolution celebrating the State Partnership Program recently established between the Vermont National Guard and Austria.**

(H.C.R.153)

Offered by: Representatives Hango of Berkshire, Austin of Colchester, Birong of Vergennes, Fagan of Rutland City, Goslant of Northfield, Harrison of Chittenden, Martel of Waterford, Morgan, L. of Milton, Morgan, M. of Milton, Morrissey of Bennington, Norris of Sheldon, Ode of Burlington, Page of Newport City, Rosenquist of Georgia, Scheuermann of Stowe, Sibia of Dover, Troiano of Stannard, and Walz of Barre City

Offered by: Senator Collamore

Whereas, 10 U.S.C. § 341 created the Department of Defense State Partnership Program (SPP) in order to link state and territorial National Guard units “with a partner nation’s military, security forces, and disaster response organizations,” and

Whereas, the Vermont National Guard established an SPP with North Macedonia in 1994, with Senegal in 2008, and, most recently, with Austria in 2021, each of which resulted in military, commercial, and governmental exchanges, and

Whereas, the Vermont National Guard’s relationship with Austria dates back to the 1980s with the cooperation of the two jurisdictions’ Mountain Warfare Schools, their mutual membership in the International Association of Mountaineering Schools, as well as their participation in biathlon activities, and, since 2018, Vermont and Austria have collaborated on the Humanitarian Mine Action Program in Senegal, and

Whereas, this new formal relationship will also foster civilian bonds, and leaders from both the Vermont National Guard and the partnering Austrian military are visiting the State House today, May 11, 2022, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly celebrates the State Partnership Program recently established between the Vermont National Guard and Austria, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Vermont National Guard, and to the visiting Austrian delegation.