

No. R-218. House concurrent resolution recognizing April 2024 as the Month of the Military Child in Vermont.

(H.C.R.164)

Offered by: Representatives Morgan of Milton, Hango of Berkshire, Bartley of Fairfax, Birong of Vergennes, Branagan of Georgia, Brennan of Colchester, Canfield of Fair Haven, Demar of Enosburgh, Donahue of Northfield, Galfetti of Barre Town, Graham of Williamstown, Gregoire of Fairfield, Higley of Lowell, Hooper of Burlington, Labor of Morgan, Laroche of Franklin, Maguire of Rutland City, McCarthy of St. Albans City, McFaun of Barre Town, Morrissey of Bennington, Nugent of South Burlington, Page of Newport City, Parsons of Newbury, Peterson of Clarendon, Sims of Craftsbury, Taylor of Milton, Toof of St. Albans Town, and Williams of Granby

Whereas, many Americans and Vermonters may not be aware that there are more than 1.6 million children of U.S. military personnel, and

Whereas, family pressures are magnified for children who remain stateside when a parent is deployed abroad, and the children of the approximately 1,000 Vermont National Guard personnel who may be deployed over the course of a year experience this disruption firsthand, and

Whereas, military children's frequent relocation and corresponding lack of long-term community stability present them with an unwelcome distraction, and

Whereas, in 1986, the U.S. Department of Defense first designated April as the Month of the Military Child, and this annual event is part of a year-round initiative that brightens and improves these children's lives, and

Whereas, related programs include the national Military Kids Connect, partnerships with the Boys & Girls Clubs of America and 4-H Clubs, and Sesame Street for Military Families, as well as many local activities that offices such as the Vermont National Guard's Child & Youth Services administer, and

Whereas, as part of this special month, April 17, 2024 will be Purple Up! For Military Kids Day, an opportunity for Americans to show solidarity with military families by wearing purple, a color that symbolizes all branches of the military, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly recognizes April 2024 as the Month of the Military Child in Vermont, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Vermont National Guard Office of Child & Youth Services.