

No. R-20. House concurrent resolution congratulating former Bennington Acting Police Chief Wally Mattison on his centennial birthday.

(H.C.R.15)

Offered by Representatives Morrissey of Bennington, Cooper of Pownal, Corcoran of Bennington, Durfee of Shaftsbury, Greer of Bennington, Hunter of Manchester, James of Manchester, Nigro of Bennington, and Pinsonault of Dorset

Offered by Senators Bongartz and Plunkett

Whereas, Wally Mattison, whose illustrious service on behalf of his nation and hometown is highly noteworthy, and he is greatly admired in Bennington, and

Whereas, he was born on September 5, 1924 in Bennington, growing up in a large family with seven siblings, and

Whereas, in 1943, during the height of World War II, teenager Wally Mattison was inducted into the U.S. Army, and

Whereas, in March 1944, upon completion of light machine-gunner training, he was deployed to the European Theater of Operations and assigned to the 29th Infantry Division, landing in France shortly after D-Day and serving as a frontline participant in the Normandy Campaign, and

Whereas, on September 12, 1944, Wally Mattison sustained a bullet wound to his lower back and was awarded both a Purple Heart and later the French Medal of Honor—that nation’s highest civil and military decoration, and

Whereas, near the conclusion of hostilities in Europe, he served in Germany, behind enemy lines, and was assigned the duty of checking houses for weapons and soldiers, and

Whereas, following his honorable military discharge, Wally Mattison returned home to Bennington, embarking on a distinguished 40-year career as a member of the Bennington Police Department, rising to the rank of captain, and retiring as the department’s much respected acting chief, and

Whereas, in September 2024, a festive celebration, including his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren; co-workers; and many friends, was held at the Bennington Elks Club on the occasion of his 100th birthday, and

Whereas, at the event, the Bennington Sheriff announced the establishment of an annual \$1,000 scholarship in Wally Mattison’s honor to be awarded to a deserving recipient aspiring to a law enforcement career, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates former Bennington Acting Police Chief Wally Mattison on his centennial birthday, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Wally Mattison.