

**No. R-77. House concurrent resolution recognizing March 25, 2025 as National Medal of Honor Day in Vermont.**

(H.C.R.57)

Offered by Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs

Offered by Senators Clarkson, Major, and White

*Whereas*, on December 21, 1861, President Abraham Lincoln signed Public Resolution 82, the original Medal of Honor legislation, providing for a Navy Medal of Valor, which Senator James W. Grimes of Iowa had introduced, and in 1862, President Abraham Lincoln extended its eligibility to U.S. Army personnel, and

*Whereas*, the first recipients of the Medal of Honor were a group of soldiers known as Andrews' Raiders, who led a daunting mission to cross Confederate lines and steal a train, and six of those soldiers were honored on March 25, 1863, and

*Whereas*, during the Civil War, approximately 60 Vermonters were Medal of Honor recipients, and

*Whereas*, the most unusual recipient was Willie Johnston, a young resident of the Northeast Kingdom community of Salem, now Derby, who, despite being only 11 years of age when he enlisted, was accepted as a drummer in Company D of the 3rd Vermont Volunteer Infantry Regiment, and

*Whereas*, during the 1862 Peninsula Campaign, when Union forces failed to invade the Confederate capital of Richmond, Virginia, and were forced to flee down the Virginia peninsula, young Johnston proved to be the only drummer in his division to retain his instrument through the harrowing ordeal, and

*Whereas*, on September 16, 1863, when Willie Johnston was only 13 years of age, U.S. Secretary of War Edwin Stanton presented him with this special medal, and he remains the youngest recipient to this day, and

*Whereas*, other Vermonters have been awarded the Medal of Honor for their military valor, including during the Indian Wars (1), the Philippines Campaign (1), interim periods (2), World War II (3), and the Vietnam War (1), and

*Whereas*, Congress established National Medal of Honor Day, which was first observed in 1991, "to foster public appreciation and recognition of Medal of Honor recipients," *now therefore be it*

***Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:***

That the General Assembly recognizes March 25, 2025 as National Medal of Honor Day in Vermont, *and be it further*

***Resolved:*** That the Secretary of State be directed to provide a copy of this resolution to the Green Mountain Base Submarine Veterans; to Robert Burke, Director of the Vermont Office of Veterans Affairs; and to Richard Lorenz, the President of the Vermont National Guard Library and Museum.