

No. R-135. House concurrent resolution designating May 18, 2025 as Grand Army of the Republic Highway Day in Vermont.

(H.C.R.111)

Offered by Representative Boyden of Cambridge

Offered by Senator Westman

Whereas, during the American Civil War more than 34,000 Vermonters fought for the Union and over 5,000 perished, and

Whereas, after the war, in 1866, a group of veterans established the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR), an organization that grew to 400,000 members and was instrumental in the creation of Memorial Day, and

Whereas, 116 GAR posts were established in Vermont, and GAR Post No. 10 in Cambridge village had over 200 surviving veterans as members; in 1918, the Women's Relief Corps of the GAR erected a monument on the road through Cambridge village to recognize the soldiers' sacrifice, and

Whereas, in 1934, U.S. Army Major William L. Anderson Jr. proposed a national designation of U.S. Route 6 as the Grand Army of the Republic Highway, and, after many years of incremental progress, a national dedication ceremony occurred in Long Beach, California, on May 3, 1953, and

Whereas, in 1937 Acts and Resolves No. 338, the Vermont General Assembly designated Route No. 15, leading from the town of Danville to the city of Burlington, as Vermont's GAR highway, and in 2025, Vermont remains the only state with a GAR-designated highway that is not part of U.S. Route 6, and

Whereas, at dedication ceremonies in Morrisville on July 25, 1937, the first automobile on the newly designated highway carried six Vermont veterans of the Civil War, and

Whereas, on February 27, 2025, the national commander of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (the GAR's legal successor organization) issued General Order #12, commemorating 2025 as the 160th anniversary of the conclusion of the Civil War, and encouraging "our individual Brothers, Camps, and Departments to host and participate in community events that pay homage to our hero-ancestors, their deeds, and their sacrifices," and

Whereas, a new roadside historical marker will be dedicated on May 18, 2025 in the village of Cambridge across the highway from the only GAR monument now on Vermont Route 15 to describe the GAR organization and the name of the highway, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly designates May 18, 2025 as Grand Army of the Republic Highway Day in Vermont, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Commander-in-Chief of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and to the Cambridge Historical Society.