

No. R-177. House concurrent resolution commemorating the 60th anniversary of the Bennington Fire Department's management of the annual Bennington Battle Day Weekend Parade and festivities.

(H.C.R.146)

Offered by Representatives Morrissey of Bennington, Corcoran of Bennington, Greer of Bennington, and Nigro of Bennington

Offered by Senators Bongartz and Plunkett

Whereas, the Town of Bennington annually celebrates the August 16, 1777 American War for Independence victory of patriot forces, including members of the Green Mountain Rangers (many of whom were Green Mountain Boys), at the Battle of Bennington in which the Americans defeated a large contingent of British and other loyalist forces under the command of British General John Burgoyne, who had unsuccessfully sought to capture a Bennington supply depot, and

Whereas, this observance consists of festive events centered on a much-anticipated parade featuring floats, musicians, marchers representing local organizations, public safety vehicles, and Vermont dignitaries, and

Whereas, originally, this venerable marching extravaganza and the associated activities were the responsibility of an ad hoc committee of local business owners and citizens, some of whom, including John Proud, were Bennington Fire Department members, and

Whereas, seeking a long-term management structure for the Bennington Battle Day Weekend commemorations, the ad hoc committee approached the Bennington Fire Chief, Chuck Sawyer, to inquire if the department would assume this role, and

Whereas, at the Bennington Fire Department's January 1965 meeting, the question was presented and the idea endorsed, with the 1965 celebration becoming the first under the department's purview, and

Whereas, the department's first Bennington Battle Day Weekend Committee consisted of Chief Sawyer (General Chairperson); Ornal Pierce Sr. (Treasurer); assistant chiefs Joseph Wasick, Edwin Mattison, and Mike Walker; and other department members serving on the committee, and

Whereas, to finance these events, the department hosts a series of fundraisers throughout the year, and among the other Bennington Battle Day Weekend celebrations are a car show, sporting competitions, a chicken barbeque dinner, and a Las Vegas night, and

Whereas, for 60 years, the Bennington Fire Department has served as the ideal guardian angel for this local summertime tradition, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly commemorates the 60th anniversary of the Bennington Fire Department's management of the annual Bennington Battle Day Weekend Parade and festivities, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Bennington Fire Department.