

No. R-348. House concurrent resolution congratulating George Luke Taggart of Castleton on his 100th birthday.

(H.C.R.290)

Offered by Representatives Canfield of Fair Haven, Branagan of Georgia, Harvey of Castleton, Masland of Thetford, and McCoy of Poultney

Offered by Senators Collamore, Weeks, and Williams

Whereas, symbolically, the birth date of George (Buddy) Taggart, on July 4, 1926, has been reflected throughout his century-long patriotic life, during which he has resided in Castleton except for his military service, and

Whereas, as a youngster, Buddy, his brother Franklin, and his sister Audrey lived frugally with their parents, Sylvia and George H. Taggart, on Birdseye Mountain, farming, logging, and attending one-room schoolhouses, and

Whereas, in 1944, 17-year-old Buddy Taggart enlisted in the U.S. Army, as his siblings and father similarly served, and

Whereas, he served as a sergeant in the 1st Cavalry Division in the Philippines; was wounded; received a Purple Heart and other military citations; participated in the liberation of the Santo Tomas Internment Camp in Manila; and, prior to his honorable discharge in 1946, was part of the American occupation forces in Japan, and

Whereas, in 1958, Buddy and Franklin Taggart established Taggart Brothers Construction, a major local builder, and among the construction projects he supervised were additions to Castleton Elementary School, the Green Block housing for the elderly in Fair Haven, the chapel at the Castleton campus of Vermont State University, and other projects in Vermont and upstate New York, and

Whereas, he has been active at the Castleton Federated Church and in many fraternal organizations, including the American Legion Post 50 in Castleton, which is close to his heart and was the site of Buddy Taggart's long-delayed receipt of his high school diploma, and

Whereas, Buddy Taggart and his late wife, Patricia Smith Taggart, are the parents of two children, Marcia and Timothy; and he is proud of his six grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren, and five great-great-grandchildren, and

Whereas, an unexpected and memorable early 100th birthday present was President Donald J. Trump's invitation to attend the 2026 State of the Union address, where the President recognized the 99-year-old proud veteran's presence in the chamber of the U.S. House of Representatives, and Buddy Taggart and his family members posed for a photograph with First Lady Melania Trump, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates George Luke Taggart of Castleton on his 100th birthday, *and be it further*

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