

State of Vermont House of Representatives



Montpelier, Vermont

Concurrent House Resolution

H.C.R. 221

Offered by All Members of the House

House concurrent resolution recognizing March 25, 2026, as National Medal of Honor Day in Vermont

Whereas, in 1861, President Abraham Lincoln signed Public Resolution 82, the original Medal of Honor legislation, and

Whereas, the first recipients of the Medal of Honor were soldiers, known collectively as Andrews' Raiders, who led a daunting mission to cross Confederate lines to steal a train (popularly known as the "Great Locomotive Chase"), and six of those soldiers were honored on March 25, 1863, and

Whereas, 64 Medals of Honor have been issued to recipients identified as Vermonters, having been either born or enlisted in the State, including the Civil War (57), the 19th-century American Indian Wars (1), the Philippines Campaign (1), interim periods (2), and World War II (3), and

Whereas, a unique recipient was William "Willie" Johnston, an 11-year-old resident of the Northeast Kingdom community of Salem, now Derby, who, begging to accompany his father to his 1861 military enlistment, was accepted as a drummer in the 3rd Vermont Volunteer Infantry Regiment, D Company, and

Whereas, on September 16, 1863, when Willie Johnston was only 13 years of age, U.S. Secretary of War Edwin Stanton bestowed on him this great honor, in recognition of his valor and perseverance during the 1862 Peninsula Campaign, as the sole drummer in his division to retain his instrument through the harrowing ordeal of a forced march from Richmond after the Union troops' failure to secure the Confederate Capital, and as of 2026, he remains the youngest Medal of Honor recipient, and

Whereas, of the eight submariner recipients, two were credited to Vermont; the first was Torpedoman Henry Breault (1923 in the Panama Canal Zone), the only enlisted and first submariner to be so honored; the second honoree was Commander Lawson Paterson "Red" Ramage, in recognition for World War II bravery, and

Whereas, in accordance with Pub. L. No. 101-564 (1990), March 25, which was the date the first medals were issued in 1863, has been observed as National Medal of Honor Day, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly recognizes March 25, 2026, as National Medal of Honor Day in Vermont, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State is directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Green Mountain Submarine Veterans and Mr. Robert Burke, director of the Vermont Office of Veterans Affairs and president of the Vermont National Guard Library and Museum.