

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

ADDENDUM

TO THE

HOUSE CALENDAR

**Text of House and Senate
Concurrent Resolutions**

of

April 14, 2016

Concurrent Resolutions for Adoption Under Joint Rule 16

The following concurrent resolutions will be adopted automatically unless a Representative or Senator requests floor consideration before the end of Friday's legislative session. Requests for floor consideration must be communicated to the House Clerk's office or the Senate Secretary's office.

Resolutions

H.C.R. 330.

House concurrent resolution congratulating the Boys & Girls Clubs of America 2016 Vermont State Youth of the Year honorees

Offered by: Representatives Pugh of South Burlington, Lanpher of Vergennes, Burditt of West Rutland, Burke of Brattleboro, Cupoli of Rutland City, Donahue of Northfield, Donovan of Burlington, Fagan of Rutland City, Gage of Rutland City, Krowinski of Burlington, Lewis of Berlin, O'Sullivan of Burlington, Rachelson of Burlington, Stuart of Brattleboro, Sullivan of Burlington, Van Wyck of Ferrisburgh, and Wright of Burlington

Whereas, in 1947, the Boys & Girls Clubs established a Youth of the Year award to recognize outstanding Club members, and

Whereas, individual club winners are eligible for state, regional, and national Youth of the Year recognition, including college scholarships, and

Whereas, in 2016, five Vermont youths were honored as local Boys & Girls Club Youth of the Year award recipients, and

Whereas, Jordan Baldwin-Page (Boys & Girls Club of Brattleboro), a Brattleboro Union High School junior, is active in the Club's teen leadership program as its president, and is a junior staff member who participates in the diplomas 2 Degree program, loves photography and singing, and is considering studying journalism in college, and

Whereas, Zeynep Barut (Boys & Girls Club of Burlington), a Burlington High School junior, was born in Turkey, lived in a Serbian refugee camp where she learned perseverance, respect, and the importance of engagement in her community before immigrating to America, and spends many hours at the Club working on her academics in preparation for college and volunteering, including teaching a healthy cooking class to younger children, and

Whereas, Josh Harrington (Boys & Girls Club of Rutland), a Rutland High School senior, loves to hunt, fish, hike, fix cars, and ride his bike, serves on the Club's teen council, and plans to attend the University of Northwestern Ohio, and

Whereas, Kira Johnson (Boys & Girls Club of Vergennes), a senior at Vergennes Union High School, has participated in Club activities since she was five years of age, has been a member of the Torch and Keystone leadership clubs, completed the Money Matters financial literacy program, has served as a junior staff member, and is dedicated to helping her family, and

Whereas, Genesis Van Dyke (Washington County Youth Service Bureau-Boys & Girls Club) is a sophomore in the STAR alternative education program in Northfield, an artist, creative writer, and animal lover, and a member of the Northfield Teen Center, and

Whereas, each of these young people deserves credit for his or her personal accomplishments, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the Boys & Girls Clubs of America 2016 Vermont State Youth of the Year honorees, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to each youth recognized in this resolution.

H.C.R. 331.

House concurrent resolution congratulating Caleb Davidson, an outstanding 2015–2016 Vermont indoor track and field athlete from Thetford Academy

Offered by: Representatives Briglin of Thetford and Masland of Thetford

Whereas, athletic competition instills in students a wholesome sense of fair play and good sportsmanship, building good character in the participant, and

Whereas, to excel in interscholastic athletic competition, a student athlete, aside from natural ability, must be dedicated, enthusiastic, and hardworking, and

Whereas, at the 2016 Vermont Indoor Track Association Combined State Meet, held on January 30 at Norwich University, in an exhibit of concentration and strength, Caleb Davidson, a Thetford Academy student, threw the shot 42'3" winning the boys' Division II crown, and

Whereas, Caleb continued to display his great athleticism on February 28, 2016 at the New England Championships held in Boston, Massachusetts, where he set a Vermont boys' Division II shot put record with a throw of 43'8.25", and

Whereas, he was honored with membership on the Vermont All-State indoor track and field second team, and

Whereas, Caleb's accomplishments throwing the shot this year are all the more laudable because, in 2015, he did not qualify for the State meet, and

through hard work and perseverance he became a 2016 champion, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates Caleb Davidson, an outstanding 2015–2016 Vermont indoor track and field athlete from Thetford Academy and wishes him the best of success in future athletic competitions, and be it further

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

H.C.R. 332.

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2016 Mt. Mansfield Union High School Cougars Division II championship girls' ice hockey team

Offered by: Representatives O'Brien of Richmond, Frank of Underhill, Stevens of Waterbury, Till of Jericho, Wood of Waterbury, Lenex of Shelburne, Lippert of Hinesburg, McCullough of Williston, Webb of Shelburne, and Yantachka of Charlotte

Whereas, a Mt. Mansfield Union High School (MMU) girls' ice hockey team had never won a championship crown, and

Whereas, throughout the 2015–2016 season, the Cougars played to win and were seeded second for the playoff competition, and

Whereas, MMU won the right to take the ice at Gutterson Fieldhouse for the Division II championship game against the top-seeded U-32 Raiders, and

Whereas, despite the Raiders scoring first, the Cougars soon tied the game, then, at 6:17 in the second period, assumed a 2–1 lead, won the game 5–2, and captured the Division II title, and

Whereas, the delighted Cougars, whose 16–6–1 championship season made MMU athletic history, were Gretchen Wright, Zada Anderson, Jackie Ryan Lauren Hanley, Mullen Carbone, Lydia Maitland, Joanna Wright, Audrey Scott, Margaret Thompson, Amelia Chicoine, Katie Peck, Anna Hogan, Jenna Laterreur, Anna Iglar, Hanna Johnson, Amaya Baustert, Lauren Hagerty, Meghan Hawley, Anna Burke, Madeline Gage, Eliza Bryan, Bailee Pudvar, and Fiona Dulude, and

Whereas, Head Coach Paul Wintersteen, and assistant coaches Mike Thompson, Larry Hagerty, and Nate Young were all great instructors and supporters of the team, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the 2016 Mt. Mansfield Union High School Cougars Division II championship girls' ice hockey team, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Mt. Mansfield Union High School.

H.C.R. 333.

House concurrent resolution congratulating Boston Post Dairy of Enosburg Falls on winning a third-place award at the 2016 World Championship Cheese Contest

Offered by: Representatives Fiske of Enosburgh and Pearce of Richford

Offered by: Senator Degree

Whereas, Robert and Gisele Gervais, the parents of 15 children, have been farmers since 1962, and

Whereas, in 2007, in partnership with their four daughters — Anne, Theresa, Susan, and Annette — Robert and Gisele Gervais purchased the Boston Post Dairy that is located on a farm the family has nicknamed “The Girls Farm,” and

Whereas, their farm is home to 180 goats, 90 cows, and 20 free-range chickens, as well as an array of cats and rabbits, and

Whereas, on purchasing the dairy, the Gervais family added a cheese production facility and a retail store, and

Whereas, Boston Post Dairy is named after the Old Boston Post Stagecoach Road, and

Whereas, the dairy produces goat, cow, and goat-cow blend cheeses and recently introduced its first goat milk camembert-style cheese, and

Whereas, Boston Post Dairy also sells homemade natural goat milk soaps and features a bakery and country store, and

Whereas, one of the Boston Post Dairy's delicious cheeses is Très Bonne, a Gouda-style goat milk cheese that has a fresh, mild, and nutty flavor; requires three to five months of aging; and has a yellow paracoat finish, and

Whereas, at the 2016 World Championship Cheese Contest, held on March 7–9 in Madison, Wisconsin, Très Bonne was awarded third place in the Hard Goat's Milk Cheeses category, garnering 99.2 out of a possible 100 points, and

Whereas, everyone associated with Boston Post Dairy, including cheesemaker Anne Doe, was thrilled with this spectacular accomplishment, as

the competition in this category included 25 entrants from around the world, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates Boston Post Dairy of Enosburg Falls on winning a third-place award at the 2016 World Championship Cheese Contest, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Boston Post Dairy in Enosburg Falls.

H.C.R. 334.

House concurrent resolution honoring Lisa and Roy Haynes and the animal rescue work of SOS Save Our Strays

Offered by: Representatives Wood of Waterbury and Stevens of Waterbury

Whereas, the tale of Lisa and Roy Haynes' journey from Florida to rural Vermont is hardly the story of a typical family, and

Whereas, Lisa Haynes was once employed by day as an insurance adjuster but, at night, she transformed herself into a powerful professional wrestler who adored the limelight of fans cheering her prowess on the wrestling mat, and

Whereas, one day, while Lisa and Roy were driving near their Florida home, they spotted a group of boys harassing a dog with firecrackers, and the couple stopped immediately to rescue the frightened animal, and

Whereas, they decided to keep the dog, a Shiloh shepherd, that was ill and malnourished, and they nurtured it back to health and found it a loving new home, and

Whereas, realizing they had discovered their life's calling, Lisa and Roy Haynes were confronted with a dilemma as they resided in a development with a three-dog-per-household maximum, and

Whereas, these conflicting realities resulted in their purchasing a home with a large yard in Huntington where they established a nonprofit known as SOS Save Our Strays, and

Whereas, Lisa and Roy Haynes have developed a network of contacts consisting of animal shelter volunteers, especially in southern states where 31 percent of the animals (usually dogs) are euthanized, and

Whereas, one set of volunteers takes temporary possession of the animals identified as worthy of rescue and provides necessary immediate care while another set of volunteers including a private airplane pilot who occasionally flies animal rescue missions, transports the dogs to Huntington, and

Whereas, once in Vermont, the animals are given major medical attention if needed and found ideal new homes, and

Whereas, Lisa and Roy Haynes are not paid for their good deeds, and despite Roy Haynes' fame as the "Cheapest Man in America," the couple must engage in fundraising activities, including the publication of a new colorful graphic novel entitled *The Adjuster*, produced in collaboration with graphic illustrator and author Michael Tonn, and

Whereas, since 1995, SOS has rescued and found new homes for over 3,000 animals, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors Lisa and Roy Haynes and the animal rescue work of SOS Save Our Strays, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Lisa and Roy Haynes and to Michael Tonn.

H.C.R. 335.

House concurrent resolution honoring Albert J. Marro on his career accomplishments at the *Rutland Herald*

Offered by: Representatives Russell of Rutland City, Burditt of West Rutland, Cupoli of Rutland City, Fagan of Rutland City, Gage of Rutland City, Potter of Clarendon, and Terenzini of Rutland Town

Offered by: Senators Collamore, Flory, and Mullin

Whereas, A.J. Marro is the smiling, and often singing, legendary *Rutland Herald* photojournalist, who is well known to many as Mr. Rutland, or even Santa Claus, and

Whereas, he is a Rutland native, and his family has long been associated with the *Rutland Herald*, as both his brothers were State House reporters, and his mother worked as a day editor, and

Whereas, A.J. Marro graduated from Mount St. Joseph Academy in 1966, and from the then Castleton State College in 1971, and

Whereas, he began his *Rutland Herald* career as a delivery boy, and A.J. Marro later worked as a sports intern and as a copy boy before becoming a full-time employee in 1969, and

Whereas, A.J. Marro is a photojournalist who never took a single photography class and transitioned from 35 millimeter black-and-white film, to color film, and finally to digital photography—which, despite his initial reluctance, became his preferred photographic medium, especially as it eliminated the need for smelly darkroom chemicals, and

Whereas, until he learned to drive at age 40, A.J. Marro’s official work place was the darkroom, with periodic forays to photographic assignments when he could arrange for a ride, or walk or take his bike, and

Whereas, A.J. Marro has covered every imaginable type of news event from a disastrous fire to political rallies and sports, perhaps his favorite, and

Whereas, he brought happiness to the many families whose student athletes appeared in his photos, and

Whereas, dedicated to meeting a deadline, in the predigital age, A.J. Marro once developed sports photographs in an improvised car-based darkroom, while being driven home from a Burlington game, and

Whereas, after four and one-half decades as a full-time, and much loved, *Rutland Herald* employee, A.J. Marro retired on December 31, 2015, although he has agreed to accept occasional sports assignments, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors Albert J. Marro on his career accomplishments at the *Rutland Herald*, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to A.J. Marro in Rutland and to the *Rutland Herald*.

H.C.R. 336.

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2016 Mount St. Joseph Academy Lady Mounties Division IV championship girls’ basketball team

Offered by: Representatives Russell of Rutland City, Fagan of Rutland City, Cupoli of Rutland City, Gage of Rutland City, and Terenzini of Rutland Town

Offered by: Senators Collamore, Flory, and Mullin

Whereas, with approximately two-thirds of the 2014–2015 Mount St. Joseph Academy (MSJ) Division IV girls’ basketball champions returning, the Lady Mounties were strong contenders to repeat this athletic feat, and

Whereas, MSJ’s regular season play was nearly flawless as it entered the playoff competition with a record that included only one defeat, and

Whereas, in the playoffs, the Mounties played their best and were rewarded with a berth in the Division IV championship game at Barre Auditorium against their neighbor, West Rutland High School, and

Whereas, in a relatively close contest, the Mounties outlasted West Rutland to win the game 42–36, capture the 2016 Division IV championship, and become the first MSJ basketball team to win consecutive basketball titles, and

Whereas, the skilled MSJ (22–1) team consisted of Jenna Eaton, Olivia Corbett, Gabby Giancola, Izzy Harvey, Logan Fuller, Shannon Elms, Amy Nichols, Monica Schmelzenbach, Sophia Duffy, Ann Blott, Fatima Hussnane, Emily Rappeno, Kristen Elliott, and Miracle Wood, and

Whereas, Head Coach Dan Elliott, and his assistants Aaron Eaton and Bill Brusio, guided the Mounties expertly and successfully to victory, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the 2016 Mount St. Joseph Academy Lady Mounties Division IV championship girls' basketball team, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Mount St. Joseph Academy.

H.C.R. 337.

House concurrent resolution congratulating Connor Duncan, Grace Moriath, and Ayrin Southworth of Northfield, and Jasmine Wells of Barre on their selection as participants in the High School Honors Performance Series at Carnegie Hall

Offered by: Representatives Donahue of Northfield, Lewis of Berlin, LaClair of Barre Town, McFaun of Barre Town, Poirier of Barre City, and Walz of Barre City

Offered by: Senators Cummings, Doyle, and Pollina

Whereas, the High School Honors Performance Series at Carnegie Hall is a unique opportunity for talented young American and international instrumental and vocal musicians to appear on one of the world's premiere stages, and

Whereas, during the past two years, vocalists from Northfield High School—Connor Duncan and Grace Moriath in 2015, and Ayrin Southworth and Jasmine Wells in 2016—sang in the series' 260-voice chorus, and

Whereas, in each year, these young vocalists were among thousands of singers, from almost every state and a number of foreign countries, who applied to participate in this special choral performance, and

Whereas, the Vermont students were thrilled and amazed to be selected from such a large pool of aspiring applicants, and

Whereas, an important reason they performed in the Big Apple, on the Carnegie Hall stage, is their great singing coach, Maggie Cook, who directs Turkey Hill Performing Arts of Northfield, and

Whereas, in preparation for their auditions, the local singers practiced diligently for six weeks before submitting digital music files to the event's organizers, and

Whereas, each of their submissions included a song with lyrics, selected to demonstrate an ability to pronounce a foreign language correctly, and a second song to test the singer's musical range, pitch, and vocal quality, and

Whereas, in order to pay the costs of the trip, the students engaged in a number of fundraising projects, and

Whereas, this musical experience created a lasting and wonderful memory for each of these young Vermonters, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates Connor Duncan, Grace Moriath, and Ayrin Southworth of Northfield, and Jasmine Wells of Barre on their selection as participants in the High School Honors Performance Series, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to each of the student singers honored in this resolution.

H.C.R. 338.

House concurrent resolution designating April 12, 2016 as Equal Pay Day in Vermont

Offered by: Representatives Burke of Brattleboro, Gonzalez of Winooski, Morris of Bennington, Ancel of Calais, Batchelor of Derby, Berry of Manchester, Botzow of Pownal, Branagan of Georgia, Briglin of Thetford, Buxton of Tunbridge, Carr of Brandon, Chesnut-Tangerman of Middletown Springs, Clarkson of Woodstock, Cole of Burlington, Connor of Fairfield, Copeland-Hanzas of Bradford, Dakin of Chester, Davis of Washington, Deen of Westminster, Donovan of Burlington, Evans of Essex, Frank of Underhill, French of Randolph, Haas of Rochester, Head of South Burlington, Hooper of Montpelier, Jerman of Essex, Jewett of Ripton, Johnson of South Hero, Keenan of St. Albans City, Kitzmiller of Montpelier, Klein of East Montpelier, Krowinski of Burlington, Lanpher of Vergennes, Lenes of Shelburne, Long of Newfane, Lucke of Hartford, Manwaring of Wilmington, McCullough of Williston, Miller of Shaftsbury, Mrowicki of Putney, Nuovo of Middlebury, O'Brien of Richmond, O'Sullivan of Burlington, Patt of Worcester, Pearson of Burlington, Pugh of South Burlington, Rachelson of Burlington, Ram of Burlington, Russell of Rutland City, Ryerson of Randolph, Stevens of Waterbury, Stuart of Brattleboro, Sullivan of Burlington, Sweaney of Windsor, Toleno of Brattleboro, Toll of Danville, Troiano of Stannard, Walz of Barre City,

Webb of Shelburne, Wood of Waterbury, Yantachka of Charlotte, and Zagar of Barnard

Offered by: Senators Bray, Ayer, Balint, Campbell, Campion, Collamore, Cummings, Degree, Doyle, MacDonald, McCormack, Nitka, Rodgers, and Zuckerman

Whereas, Equal Pay Day is a symbolic day in the spring, chosen to highlight that, due to the wage gap, women must work well into the next year before their earnings catch up to what men made the year before, and

Whereas, the wage gap in Vermont is 16 percent, with women earning 84 cents for every dollar men earn, and that gap widens to 23 percent when a woman has dependent children and is even wider for women of color, and

Whereas, the wage gap exists in jobs at all levels of pay: women chief executives in Vermont earn 31 percent less than their male counterparts, and

Whereas, the wage gap in Vermont exists in jobs in which women are the majority of workers, including personal care and service workers, who are 74 percent female but have a wage gap of 31 percent, and

Whereas, according to the Institute for Women's Policy Research, equal pay for working women in the United States would result in reductions in poverty for all working families of 50 percent nationally and 57 percent in Vermont, and

Whereas, if working women received equal pay in Vermont, at least one billion dollars would be added into the State's economy, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly designates April 12, 2016 as Equal Pay Day in Vermont, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Vermont Commission on Women, the League of Women Voters of Vermont, and the Vermont Federation of Business and Professional Women.

H.C.R. 339.

House concurrent resolution congratulating the broadcasting duo Bruce and Hobbes on the publication and promotion of their anti-bullying and domestic violence prevention book, *Hobbes Goes Home*

Offered by: Representatives Lanpher of Vergennes, Baser of Bristol, Eastman of Orwell, Jewett of Ripton, Nuovo of Middlebury, Sharpe of Bristol, Sheldon of Middlebury, Smith of New Haven, and Van Wyck of Ferrisburgh

Whereas, after recognizing the significance and seriousness of bullying and violence in schools across our country, Vermont radio personality, Bruce

Zeman, whose special canine companion, Hobbes, is a bullied domestic violence survivor, decided to write a book on these subjects and read it to students in every Vermont school, and

Whereas, Bruce, with Hobbes foremost in his thoughts, wrote *Hobbes Goes Home*, and the two of them began a statewide, anti-bullying book tour that raised awareness of these issues and empowered students to facilitate substantive change through kindness and empathy, and

Whereas, the two have already visited 125 schools across Vermont, reading their book and speaking to students about bullying, domestic violence, empathy, compassion, and forgiveness, and

Whereas, *Hobbes Goes Home*, which is the true story of Hobbes's rescue from an abusive home and his subsequent adoption by the Zeman family, has raised significant awareness of these important issues and shown Vermont in a positive light, and

Whereas, the book has received significant positive attention from across the nation, as a result of its empowering messages for students of all ages, and has earned praise from President Barack Obama, Vermont Governor Peter Shumlin, Congressman Peter Welch, and dozens of educators, teachers, students, and animal welfare organizations, and

Whereas, through their book and the web-based radio show, *Bruce and Hobbes Radio*, this broadcasting duo continues to promote positive messages for students, empowering them to make changes in their lives and the lives of others by acting with kindness, compassion, and empathy, and

Whereas, the publication and promotion of *Hobbes Goes Home* can serve as a national model for ending bullying and domestic violence, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the broadcasting duo Bruce and Hobbes on the publication and promotion of their anti-bullying and domestic violence prevention book, *Hobbes Goes Home*, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Bruce Zeman in New Haven.

H.C.R. 340.

House concurrent resolution honoring William Sugarman for his leadership as a devoted teacher, college faculty member, and education administrator

Offered by: Representatives French of Randolph, Ryerson of Randolph, Buxton of Tunbridge, Davis of Washington, Donahue of Northfield, Graham of Williamstown, Haas of Rochester, Jewett of Ripton, and Lewis of Berlin

Offered by: Senators MacDonald and McCormack

Whereas, Bill Sugarman earned a bachelor's degree in recreational administration from Lyndon State College and a master's degree in education, with a special education focus, from the University of Vermont (UVM), and

Whereas, at the former Brandon Training School, in group homes, and at the organization then known as Orange County Mental Health, he worked with students with developmental disabilities, and

Whereas, Bill Sugarman's pioneering efforts on behalf of youth and adults with disabilities included implementing the State's first competitive employment program designed for this population group, and

Whereas, as a member of UVM's special education department, he provided specialized training and support services to schools, to agencies, and to individuals and their families related to the transition to adult life for persons with disabilities, and

Whereas, in recognition of his outstanding work on the adult transition project, Bill Sugarman was the recipient of the Governor's Award for Service to People with Disabilities, and

Whereas, Bill Sugarman's role as a college faculty member at UVM and Castleton University focused on instructing new and veteran special and technical education teachers and on methods to improve educational effectiveness for all students, and

Whereas, for 19 years, Bill Sugarman brought his knowledge and skills to the Randolph Technical Career Center (RTCC), serving for seven years as the cooperative education coordinator and for 12 years as RTCC's director, and

Whereas, in recognition of his major contribution to RTCC's success, the Vermont Principals' Association named Bill Sugarman the organization's Technical Director of the Year, and UVM named him its RTCC Teacher of the Year, and

Whereas, Bill Sugarman has volunteered extensively in civic and public education roles in Tunbridge and South Royalton, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors William Sugarman for his leadership as a devoted teacher, college faculty member, and education administrator, and be it further

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

H.C.R. 341.

House concurrent resolution designating April 2016 as Autism Awareness and Appreciation Month

Offered by: All Members of the House

Offered by: Senator Zuckerman

Whereas, according to the American Psychiatric Association, autism spectrum disorder (autism) “is a complex developmental disorder that can cause problems with thinking, feeling, language and the ability to relate to others,” and

Whereas, autism symptoms range from mild to severe, and each person with autism is a unique individual, and

Whereas, autism occurs in one in 68 children, and

Whereas, boys are four and one-half times more likely to be diagnosed with autism, and Caucasian children are the most likely to be identified with autism, and

Whereas, many children with autism are not receiving comprehensive developmental evaluation as early as they could be, according to recent statements by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and

Whereas, caring Vermonters in the health, education, and human services fields are working very hard to support children and youths with autism, and

Whereas, 8 V.S.A. § 4088i requires that a “health insurance plan shall provide coverage for the evidence-based diagnosis and treatment of early childhood developmental disorders,” including autism, and

Whereas, several federal laws provide for autism support services across the lifespan as well as important scientific research, and

Whereas, Vermont families nonetheless struggle to access the necessary support services for their autistic family members, and

Whereas, children and youths with autism will become adults in the next decade with many needing continuing support, and

Whereas, Vermonters need to recognize the skills and potential contributions of individuals with autism, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and the House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly designates April 2016 as Autism Awareness and Appreciation Month, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Secretary of Education, the Commissioner of Labor, the Commissioner of Vermont Health Access, and the Commissioner of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living.

H.C.R. 342.

House concurrent resolution congratulating Elijah Pianka on winning the 2016 Division II high jump championship and on representing Vermont at the New England Championships in Boston, Massachusetts

Offered by: Representatives Forguites of Springfield, Emmons of Springfield, and Dakin of Chester

Offered by: Senators Campbell, McCormack, and Nitka

Whereas, athletic competition instills in students a wholesome sense of fair play and good sportsmanship, building good character in the participant, and

Whereas, to excel in interscholastic athletic competition, a student athlete, aside from natural ability, must be dedicated, enthusiastic, and hard-working, and

Whereas, at the 2016 Vermont Indoor Track Association Combined State Meet, held on January 30 at Norwich University, Elijah Pianka, a Springfield High School junior, exhibited the athletic skill that impressed and surprised those who were familiar with this year's high jump competitors, and

Whereas, Elijah Pianka out-performed the top-seeded entrant to win the Division II high jump championship with a 5'6" jump, and

Whereas, in the separately scored Vermont New England qualifier competition, Elijah Pianka improved his jump, qualifying at a height of 5'7", a performance that was a crucial three inches higher than the second-best result and a great example of his superb athleticism, and

Whereas, Elijah Pianka was proud to represent Vermont in the high jump competition at the 2016 New England Championships in Boston, Massachusetts, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates Elijah Pianka on winning the 2016 Division II high jump championship and representing Vermont at the New England Championships in Boston, Massachusetts, and wishes him future success in his athletic pursuits, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Elijah Pianka at Springfield High School.

H.C.R. 343.

House concurrent resolution in memory of Green Mountain Boys State Board of Directors member Dean R. Burgess Sr.

Offered by: Representatives Burditt of West Rutland, Canfield of Fair Haven, Carr of Brandon, Cupoli of Rutland City, Devereux of Mount Holly, Gage of Rutland City, Haas of Rochester, Helm of Fair Haven, Lawrence of Lyndon, McCoy of Poultney, Potter of Clarendon, Russell of Rutland City, Shaw of Pittsford, Tate of Mendon, Terenzini of Rutland Town, and Marcotte of Coventry

Whereas, the success of the Green Mountain Boys State program is dependent in large measure on the dedicated American Legion volunteers who provide guidance and mentorship to the participating high school students, and

Whereas, one of these outstanding adult leaders was Dean Burgess of Center Rutland, and

Whereas, he was a lifelong resident of Rutland County, having lived as a youth in Proctor, and

Whereas, he was a member of the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War, and

Whereas, for many years, Dean Burgess was employed as a bus driver for the Vermont Transit Company, and

Whereas, Dean Burgess was proud to be a veteran and demonstrated his pride as an active member of the American Legion, and

Whereas, his extensive involvement with the organization included serving as commander of American Legion Post # 31 in Rutland, and

Whereas, he was especially devoted to the American Legion's Green Mountain Boys State program, for which he served as a member of the board of directors, and

Whereas, his duties with Green Mountain Boys State included both preparatory responsibilities and working directly with the students during the exciting week in June when the boys observe State government in action and participate in an exciting mock legislative session, and

Whereas, this patriotic Vermonter died on May 14, 2015, having served his State and nation in war and peace, and his survivors include his wife, Noreen; sons, Dean Jr., Steve, and Kenneth; four grandchildren, his sister, and two brothers, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly extends its condolences to the family of Dean R. Burgess Sr., and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Dean Burgess's widow and to each of his children and siblings.

H.C.R. 344.

House concurrent resolution in memory of outstanding high school athletics coach and Green Mountain Boys State leader Michael John Callanan

Offered by: Representatives Beck of St. Johnsbury, Willhoit of St. Johnsbury, Lawrence of Lyndon, and Marcotte of Coventry

Whereas, Michael Callanan was born in St. Johnsbury and for many years resided in Hanover, New Hampshire, and

Whereas, he graduated from St. Johnsbury Academy and earned a bachelor's degree at Lyndon State College, and

Whereas, upon graduating from Lyndon State College, Michael Callanan embarked on a secondary school teaching and coaching career, initially at Bradford Academy where he taught history, psychology, and sociology, and

Whereas, while an excellent classroom teacher, he will be especially remembered for excelling as a coach of interscholastic soccer and indoor and outdoor track, and

Whereas, at Oxbow Union High School, he led the varsity soccer team to over 200 victories during his 30-plus years as head coach, and

Whereas, a second assignment was serving as junior varsity coach at Hanover High School where he compiled another 142 victories, and

Whereas, Michael Callanan was considered the dean of high school soccer coaches in both states bordering the Connecticut River, and

Whereas, as evidence of his right to this unofficial honor, Michael Callanan was named Vermont Coach of the Year on three occasions and as the New Hampshire Junior Varsity Boys Soccer coach in 2010 and again in 2015, and

Whereas, away from athletic competition, Michael Callanan served for 39 years as a volunteer for Green Mountain Boys State and worked extensively with the boys on the town and county levels and often moderated the sessions preceding each year's election of Green Mountain Boys State's officers, and

Whereas, he worked as diligently teaching civic education to the future leaders participating in Boys State as he did as a soccer and track coach, and

Whereas, Michael Callanan was an avid amateur musician, Alpine skier, and international traveler, and

Whereas, this outstanding educator died on July 30, 2015, and his survivors include three sisters, Carol, Debra, and Nancy, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly extends its condolences to the family of Michael John Callanan, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to each of Michael Callanan's sisters.

S.C.R. 42.

Senate concurrent resolution honoring the Vermont Victim Assistance Program on its 30th anniversary and celebrating National Crime Victims' Rights Week.

Whereas, Acts and Resolves No. 182 of 1986 (Act 182) established the Vermont Victim Assistance Program, and

Whereas, the Vermont Victim Assistance Program was established "to reduce the financial, emotional and physical consequences of criminal victimization, to prevent victimization by the law enforcement and criminal justice system and to assist victims with problems that result from their victimization," and

Whereas, Act 182 authorized the Department of State's Attorneys to hire nine full-time victim advocates charged with providing information, notification, and services to Vermont crime victims, and

Whereas, over the past 30 years, Victim Advocates have worked with thousands of Vermont crime victims in every county across the State to help them navigate the criminal justice system, access community resources, and advocate for personal safety, restitution, and justice, and

Whereas, in 2016, the Vermont Victim Assistance Program comprises 27 advocates, each of whom brings victim-centered and trauma-informed expertise, compassion, creativity, patience, and tireless commitment to those they serve, and

Whereas, as a result of the Vermont Victim Assistance Program, crime victims receive support and advocacy as they recover financially, emotionally, and physically from their experiences, and the criminal justice system as a whole is more transparent and accessible to the law-abiding public and responsive to the communities that it serves, and

Whereas, President Obama has proclaimed April 10–16 as National Crime Victims’ Rights Week 2016, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and the House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors and celebrates the 30th Anniversary of the establishment of the Vermont Victim Assistance Program, recognizes the exceptional efforts of the Vermont State’s Attorneys’ Victim Advocates Program on behalf of Vermont’s crime victims, and joins others across the country in celebrating National Crime Victims’ Rights Week 2016, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Vermont Victim Assistance Program.