

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

ADDENDUM

TO THE

HOUSE CALENDAR

**Text of House Concurrent
Resolutions**

of

March 22, 2012

Concurrent Resolutions for Adoption Under Joint Rule 16

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

Resolutions

H.C.R. 304.

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2012 Essex High School Division I and Northern Vermont Athletic Conference championship cheerleading team

Offered by: Representatives Myers of Essex, Evans of Essex, Heath of Westford, Jerman of Essex and Waite-Simpson of Essex

Whereas, 2012 marked the 30th state cheerleading championship meet and the Essex High School Hornets, who have dominated this sport over the last three decades, set out to assure that this year's meet would be memorable in the annals of their school's competitive athletic history, and

Whereas, meeting at the Vergennes Union High School, the Hornets, whose team motto this season has been "want it, work it, win it," lived up to the demanding expectations of these words, and

Whereas, the large crowd of approximately 1,500 spectators witnessed a glorious afternoon of competition, and the Burlington Free Press described the Hornets' contributions as a combination of "intricate dance moves, high-flying acrobatics and synchronized cheers," and

Whereas, as always, the musical accompaniment and coordination devised for the Essex team reflected months of careful preparation and rehearsal, and

Whereas, in the various elements of competition, Hornet contingents earned first or second place in the top gun stunts and second-place finishes for both top gun tumbling and top gun jumps, and

Whereas, the Essex Hornets won the 2012 Division I cheerleading title 181 to 177 over second-place Rutland, and

Whereas, this victory marked a special occasion for the Hornets as it was their 20th Division I state cheerleading championship and also earned them entry into the New England Championships in Lawrence, Massachusetts, and

Whereas, these thrilled Hornet cheerleaders, including Lisa Ashley, Maureen Besade, Sianay Chase, Emily Dowman, Paige Dunbar, Stephanie Fuchs, Jenna Lasko, Mikayla Leblanc, Michala Rigoli, Caitria Sands,

Francesca Sands, Haley Sullivan, Kallysta Tanguay, Katherine Weed, Kasandra Wiggett, and Amy Yandow added further glory to the team's success when they subsequently won the Northern Vermont Athletic Conference multi-division championship held in South Burlington, and

Whereas, without the amazing work and continuing effort of head coach Maria Ung and assistant coach Brittany Picard, this historic 20th state championship would not have occurred, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the 2012 Essex High School Division I and Northern Vermont Athletic Conference championship cheerleading team, and be it further

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

H.C.R. 305.

House concurrent resolution congratulating the Essex High School Hornets 2012 Division I championship girls' ice hockey team

Offered by: Representative Myers of Essex, Evans of Essex, Heath of Westford, Jerman of Essex and Waite-Simpson of Essex

Whereas, the fifth-seeded Essex High School girls' ice hockey Hornets faced off against the third-seeded South Burlington High School Rebels for the 2012 Division I championship, and

Whereas, as play at UVM's Gutterson Fieldhouse began, it quickly became evident that the teams were nearly evenly matched, and

Whereas, each team needed to stay alert for its advantageous moment to move offensively, especially if a power play scenario developed, and

Whereas, the Hornets were the first to avail themselves of this special opportunity when an Essex player sent a rebounding puck into the South Burlington net at 7:37 of the first period, giving the Hornets a 1-0 lead, and

Whereas, South Burlington did not allow this scoring deficit to remain for long as at 11:23 of the same period, a Rebel scored while the Hornets also lacked their full quorum of players on the ice, and

Whereas, from that moment, the game became a defensive dual between two fine goalies, one of whom, a Hornet freshman, executed a glove snatch off a Rebel, and that player's great saves nullified a total of 15 possible Rebel goals, and

Whereas, as the two teams entered the third and final regulation period, they each sought the ideal opportunity to score the winning goal, and

Whereas, a Hornet strategically stationed herself in what the team calls the “sweet spot” on the ice—namely, an ideal location for a forward to take command of loose pucks near the opponent’s goal, and

Whereas, with four minutes of the third period remaining and mere seconds before a South Burlington penalty-evicted player placed her skates back on the ice, the strategically placed Hornet scored the winning goal, sealing a 2–1 Essex game victory and giving her team the 2012 Division I title, and

Whereas, each ice hockey Hornet, including Victoria Gibson, Taylor Hallowell, Erin Murray, Alexandra Celia, Haley Drury, Kathleen Young, Rachel Elliott, Melanie Theriault, Mackenzie Burnett, Nicole Beaudoin, Melissa Moldovan, Kim Dvorak, Jasmine Powell, Kayleigh Daniels, Charlotte Adams, Taylor Drake, Tiffany Barnes, Julie Pearce, and Lauren Cray, played her best, and Head Coach John Maddalena deserves much of the credit for the Hornets’ success, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the Essex High School Hornets 2012 Division I 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 Essex High School.

H.C.R. 306.

House concurrent resolution congratulating the Williamstown High School Blue Devils 2012 Division III championship boys’ basketball team

Offered by: Representatives Winters of Williamstown and Davis of Washington

Whereas, in each succeeding round of the 2012 playoff competition, the Williamstown High School Blue Devils dismissed the hopes of the challenging squad, and

Whereas, the Blue Devils ultimately earned the right to play in the championship game against rival Rivendell High School, a team that this season had proven a challenging opponent, and

Whereas, the fast-paced first quarter was a scoring draw at 10–10 as Rivendell’s ability to precipitate seven Blue Devil turnovers was balanced against the championship challenger’s lackluster 3 for 15 shooting performance, and

Whereas, Williamstown's propensity for blocking its opponent's shots, combined with a better second-quarter offensive performance, left the Blue Devils ahead 32–25 at the midgame break, and

Whereas, during the second half, the Blue Devils aimed the ball for the hoop with far greater accuracy, outscoring Rivendell 34–17 overall and a whopping 27–6 from the free throw line, and

Whereas, this offensive superiority resulted from strong individual results as its two top scorers racked up 18 and 16 points, respectively, and

Whereas, at the game's conclusion, the victorious Blue Devils had soundly defeated Rivendell 66–42, and repeated as Division III champions, and

Whereas, Williamstown players Seth Atherton, Dylan Hartman, Logan Clark, Branden Premont, Chris Hulbert, Konnor Dexter, Landen Brouillette, Garret Poulin, Ryan McCarthy, Hunter McLaughlin, Devin Duff, Kyle Laughlin, John Scholtz, and Jason Manwaring each contributed to the team's success, and

Whereas, Head Coach Jack Carrier and assistant coaches Adam Wheatley, Nick Gagnon, and Hayden Coon skillfully instructed the players, and the support of student manager Chelsea Brennan was much appreciated, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the Williamstown High School Blue Devils 2012 Division III championship boys' basketball team, and be it further

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

H.C.R. 307.

House concurrent resolution congratulating Sophia Hadeka of Fair Haven on being named Miss Vermont's Outstanding Teen 2011

Offered by: Representatives Canfield of Fair Haven, Helm of Fair Haven, Bouchard of Colchester, Courcelle of Rutland City, Donaghy of Poultney, Higley of Lowell, Malcolm of Pawlet, McNeil of Rutland Town, Savage of Swanton and Winters of Williamstown

Offered by: Senators Carris, Flory and Mullin

Whereas, the mission of the not-for-profit Miss Vermont Scholarship Organization "is to provide scholarships to young women of Vermont while coaching their leadership skills, mentoring their participation in relevant

community service, enhancing their unique talents, and developing their personal confidence, grace and style,” and

Whereas, one of the titles the Miss Vermont Scholarship Organization annually presents is Miss Vermont’s Outstanding Teen, and

Whereas, on June 25, 2011, Sophia Hadeka of Fair Haven was crowned Miss Vermont’s Outstanding Teen at the conclusion of a final competition event in South Burlington, and

Whereas, contestants for the honor of being named Miss Vermont’s Outstanding Teen must be 13–17 years of age and Vermont residents and must meet academic, personal character, and health requirements, and

Whereas, at age 13, Sophia Hadeka is the youngest girl ever to be named Miss Vermont’s Outstanding Teen, and

Whereas, the contestants were judged based on a combination of their talent (35 percent), a personal interview (30 percent), evening wear/on stage question (20 percent), lifestyle and fitness (10 percent), and scholastic achievement (5 percent), and

Whereas, when she was named Miss Vermont’s Outstanding Teen, Sophia Hadeka had just completed seventh grade and ranked first in her class at the Fair Haven Grade School, and

Whereas, she is a member of her school’s spelling bee team, loves to play softball, soccer, and basketball, and has attended multiple dance classes, and from these extracurricular activities, Sophia Hadeka has learned the importance of team work and working cooperatively under pressure, and

Whereas, a veteran of girl scouting, Sophia Hadeka continues offering community service by helping second graders with their homework, and

Whereas, the Miss Vermont Scholarship Organization is very proud to have Sophia Hadeka serve as its 2011 Outstanding Teen, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates Sophia Hadeka of Fair Haven on being named Miss Vermont’s Outstanding Teen 2011, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Sophia Hadeka in Fair Haven.

H.C.R. 308.

House concurrent resolution congratulating the Essex High School Hornets on winning the 2012 state gymnastics championship

Offered by: Representatives Myers of Essex, Evans of Essex, Heath of Westford, Jerman of Essex and Waite-Simpson of Essex

Whereas, agility, maneuverability, and precision are all characteristic of a top-scoring gymnastic competitor, and

Whereas, gymnastic competition has gained a special appeal for students at Essex High School, and their commitment to the sport had resulted in six consecutive state championships as the team embarked on the 2011–2012 season, and

Whereas, the Hornets again were among the state’s premiere gymnasts, emerging from the regular season undefeated, and

Whereas, they were a favorite to win the state championship meet that took place at their own gymnasium, and

Whereas, the alert observation of head coach Ashley Godin and assistant Kara Bissonnette caught a judge’s scoring error that was immediately corrected and proved pivotal in this extremely close championship competition, and

Whereas, an Essex student captured first place in the vault and beam events, which, along with other top scores, left Essex a mere three-quarters of a point ahead of rival Champlain Valley Union High School as the teams began the final event, the floor exercise, which would determine whether the Hornets would again be state champions, and

Whereas, through the now extremely important floor exercise, the Essex students nicely withstood the unusual pressure and completed this event with a sufficient score for the Hornets to clinch their seventh consecutive gymnastics championship by the narrow but extremely satisfying score of 139.35 to 139.15, and

Whereas, Essex team members added further sparkle to the day by capturing the first- and second-place overall individual scores, and

Whereas, this dedicated team of gymnasts consisted of Morgan Beck, Julie Berardo, Keira Cameron, Ashley Douglas, Emily Douglas, Rosy Gallo, Courtney Gleason, Rylie Hathaway, Michaela Isham, Lucy Lincoln, Olivia Mueller, Bailey Robbins, Christina Roberts, Mallory Stultz, Laura Sturm, Karyn Svarczkopf, Kira Tanghe, and Taylor Thompson, and

Whereas, head coach Ashley Godin was an invaluable leader for the team, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the Essex High School Hornets on winning the 2012 state gymnastics championship, and be it further

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

H.C.R. 309.

House concurrent resolution in memory of Alan D. Overton

Offered by: Representatives Myers of Essex, Evans of Essex, Heath of Westford, Jerman of Essex, Smith of Morristown and Waite-Simpson of Essex

Whereas, Alan Overton was one of the University of Vermont's most illustrious alumni, a leading citizen in the town of Essex, and a much-respected lawyer who practiced his profession for nearly 50 years, and

Whereas, as a UVM student, he demonstrated the initiative and leadership that would carry forward into his future alumni roles, including serving as vice president of his graduating class of 1959, president of the Newman Society and the Phi Delta Theta fraternity, and vice president of the Boulder Society, and he even found time to play on the varsity football team, and

Whereas, Alan Overton graduated from the University of Michigan Law School and served in the United States Air Force Judge Advocate Corps before returning to Vermont and eventually settling in Essex Junction, and

Whereas, in the town of Essex, he was a founder of the Essex Rotary and was named a Paul Harris Award recipient, served on the Brownell Library Board of Trustees and the Holy Family Parish Council, was active in coaching Little League and Babe Ruth baseball, and was a founder of the Essex Flag Football program, and

Whereas, in over a half century as a proud UVM alumnus, Alan Overton held important positions in the university community including founding and cochairing the Catamount Club, acting as cotrustee of the Phi Delta Theta Alumni Association for over 30 years, serving as president of the alumni association, serving on the university board of trustees, and serving as national chair of the UVM development fund, and

Whereas, with respect to the university's medical organizations, Alan Overton sat on the boards of the University Health Center, the Fanny Allen Hospital, and the Medical Center Hospital of Vermont, and

Whereas, in recognition of his multifaceted and numerous contributions to the governance and prosperity of UVM, he was presented the Distinguished Alumni Award, and

Whereas, on February 22, 2012 Alan Overton died, leaving a legacy of accomplishment in the town of Essex and at UVM, and his survivors include his wife of 52 years, Ann, who he met during his first week at UVM, his children Alan, Daniel, and Jennifer, five grandchildren, and brothers Mark and Edward, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly extends its sincere condolences to the family of Alan Overton, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Ann Overton in Essex.

H.C.R. 310.

House concurrent resolution designating March 21 as Vermont Energy Independence Day

Offered by: Representatives Edwards of Brattleboro, Canfield of Fair Haven, Cheney of Norwich, Ellis of Waterbury, Jerman of Essex, Klein of East Montpelier, Nuovo of Middlebury, Wright of Burlington and Yantachka of Charlotte

Offered by: Senators Lyons, MacDonald and McCormack

Whereas, the current and projected impact from climate change on the state of Vermont's citizens and communities from severe weather, rising temperatures, and shifting ecosystems poses a serious risk to Vermont's economic viability, natural resources, public and private infrastructure, and public health and safety, and

Whereas, the state of Vermont has set important greenhouse gas reduction goals codified at 10 V.S.A. § 578 for avoiding the worst consequences of climate change and helping the state reduce its dependence on nonrenewable energy supplies, including: reducing the state's greenhouse gas emissions by 25 percent by 2012, 50 percent by 2028; and 75 percent by 2050; substantially improving the thermal efficiency in 25 percent of the state's older housing stock by 2020; and meeting, over time, a progressively larger portion of our state's electricity needs from in-state renewable supplies, and

Whereas, Vermont energy independence reflects a goal of clean, safe, and dependable energy made by and for the citizens of Vermont, and

Whereas, greater energy independence is achievable through both improved energy efficiency and the substitution of renewable for nonrenewable energy resources, and

Whereas, strategies for energy independence will benefit Vermont's economy, communities, and the environment by reducing reliance on diminishing fossil fuels, increasing local capacity for energy self-reliance, and reducing our emissions of greenhouse gases and other air pollutants, and

Whereas, there is a growing grassroots consensus, reflected in the formation of over 100 community energy committees, that Vermont must take real and meaningful action to address both the peak oil and climate crises, and move Vermonters toward more affordable, efficient, and renewable energy strategies, and

Whereas, Vermont has been a leader on renewable energy issues such as enacting the nation's first-ever statewide standard offer program to encourage the development of more community-scale renewable energy generation, and

Whereas, the urgency of the climate and energy challenges will be a critical issue before all Vermonters for many years to come, and many citizens concerned about energy challenges will be gathering at the State House and around the state on March 21, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly designates March 21 as Vermont Energy Independence Day.

H.C.R. 311.

House concurrent resolution congratulating the U-32 Raiders 2012 Lake Division championship boys' ice hockey team

Offered by: Representatives Klein of East Montpelier, Ancel of Calais, Lewis of Berlin, Peltz of Woodbury and Smith of Morristown

Offered by: Senators Cummings, Doyle and Pollina

Whereas, for two decades, the U-32 Raiders boys' ice hockey team had tried mightily to bring home a Lake Division championship, and the

2011–2012 season showed great potential for success as the Raiders merited a second-seed ranking in post-season play, and

Whereas, their championship game opponents in Burlington were the top-seeded Northfield Marauders with a 16-game undefeated streak, and

Whereas, these two Washington County squads may have been closely ranked, but the Raider scoring prowess this day would prove far too much for the Marauders to stop, even though they had handily put down U-32 in a 5-0 pounding in January, and

Whereas, at less than six minutes into the first period, a Raider fired a center shot to a teammate who executed a weak-side goal, and

Whereas, the Marauders evened the score with a surprising goal just 7.3 seconds before the first period ended, and

Whereas, at the 3:28 mark of period 2, during a power play advantage, the Raiders scored, breaking the tie, and with 2:24 left in the middle period, a counterattack goal from the left side extended U-32's lead to 3-1, and

Whereas, well into the third period, with 4:29 remaining in regulation play, U-32 succeeded on a second-chance goal, making the score 4-1, and

Whereas, with four minutes left, the Marauders made a strategic decision to pull their goalie, and 22 seconds later, U-32 slammed the puck into the undefended scoring zone, creating a 5-1 lead and sealing for U-32 a game victory and the 2012 Lake Division title, and

Whereas, Raiders Tyler Law, Reed Kirby, Connor Rice, Andrew Danyew, Cooper Hatch, Colvin Rice, Brock Allen, Isaac Beaupre, Kyle Ferguson, Kyle Verchereau, Cole Mugford, Forrest Smith, Stu Laperle, Tyler Elliot, Kyle Elliot, Cam Bolduc, Chris Aldrighetti, Wyatt Peterson, Grady Wimble, Cedrick Zeno, Michael Bresette, and Shane O'Neill were each contributors to the great occasion, and Head Coach Dave Pickel, assistant coach Jeff Mugford, and student managers Johnny Laperle and Sam Staab each did his part to make the game so memorable, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the U-32 Raiders 2012 Lake Division championship boys' ice hockey team, and

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to U-32 High School.

H.C.R. 312.

House concurrent resolution honoring Alice Hafner of Danville for her outstanding public service on behalf of the Vermont criminal justice system

Offered by: Representatives Toll of Danville, Acinapura of Brandon, Batchelor of Derby, Higley of Lowell, Johnson of Canaan, Kilmartin of Newport City, Larocque of Barnet, Lawrence of Lyndon, Leriche of Hardwick, Lewis of Derby, Marcotte of Coventry, Peaslee of Guildhall, Reis of St. Johnsbury, South of St. Johnsbury and Strong of Albany

Offered by: Senators Kitchel and Benning

Whereas, for over four decades, Alice Hafner was an important participant in the implementation of probation and parole services in Vermont, and

Whereas, in 1970, she began her career as a probation officer, a position she effectively continued for nine years and, as such, gained firsthand experience for her future oversight roles, and

Whereas, in 1979, Alice Hafner was promoted to an assistant district manager's position, supervising other parole officers based in Barre, and

Whereas, she performed her duties in Barre most satisfactorily, and in 1982 was designated district manager of Northeast Probation and Parole in St. Johnsbury, and

Whereas, after a successful directorship, in 1987, she retired, supposedly, from working on probation and parole matters, and the New England Conference on Crime and Delinquency awarded Alice Hafner the John R. Manson–Carl Robinson Award in recognition of her outstanding contribution to the field of criminal justice, and

Whereas, her departure from criminal justice oversight proved temporary as in September 1988, Governor Kunin appointed Alice Hafner to the parole board which decides questions of parole from throughout the state, and

Whereas, in 1991, Governor Snelling appointed Alice Hafner as chair of the board, and she wisely presided over this panel for the next two years, and

Whereas, in 1994, the Middle Atlantic States Correctional Association Conference presented Alice Hafner a Vermont Achievement Award in recognition of her contributions to the field of corrections in the state of Vermont and particularly as a role model for Department of Corrections staff, and

Whereas, Vermont governors continued to reappoint Alice Hafner to an alternate's position on the parole board, and, in 2012, she is truly concluding her remarkable board service, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors Alice Hafner of Danville for her outstanding public service on behalf of the Vermont criminal justice system, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Alice Hafner in Danville.

H.C.R. 313.

House concurrent resolution congratulating Middlebury Union Middle School students Ronan Howlett and Meigan Clark on their success at the 2012 Vermont Spelling Bee

Offered by: Representatives Jewett of Ripton, Nuovo of Middlebury, Ralston of Middlebury, Smith of New Haven and Stevens of Shoreham

Whereas, 34 youngsters, who spent the winter broadening their lexicographical knowledge and polishing their phonetic mastery, gathered at St. Michael's College to participate in the Vermont Spelling Bee, and

Whereas, this convocation of alpha-order enthusiasts is a jointly sponsored endeavor of the Vermont Humanities Council, the Vermont department of education, the Vermont Principals Association, and the Burlington Free Press, and

Whereas, the linguistic intrigue continued for 18 rounds as students tackled assorted words such as moorage, mayonnaise, leechcraft, and evanesce, and

Whereas, there were two extraordinary final competitors, Ronan Howlett and the 2011 champion, Meigan Clark, both of them seventh-graders from Middlebury Union Middle School, and

Whereas, after surviving 17 rounds in grand style and successfully spelling many difficult and unusual words, Meigan Clark met her lettering match from a German cheese known as limburger, which she spelled with an "e" in place of the "u," and

Whereas, Meigan Clark deserves much credit for her spelling knowledge and competitive endurance, and she can be proud of her second-place finish, and

Whereas, Ronan Howlett of Cornwall, the 2012 Vermont Spelling Bee champion, is an avid reader whose favorite books include the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy, and

Whereas, coming from a home without the distraction of television, the Internet, or video games, he is able to concentrate on mastering the written word and attributed his victory to his mother's superb coaching, and

Whereas, as the first-place winner of the 2012 Vermont Spelling Bee, he is eligible to travel to Washington, D.C. in May to compete in the Scripps National Spelling Bee, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates Middlebury Union Middle School students Ronan Howlett and Meigan Clark on their success at the 2012 Vermont Spelling Bee, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Ronan Howlett and Meigan Clark at Middlebury Union Middle School.

H.C.R. 314.

House concurrent resolution congratulating the Mt. Mansfield Union High School Cougars 2012 Division I championship boys' basketball team

Offered by: Representatives Till of Jericho, Frank of Underhill, O'Brien of Richmond, Ellis of Waterbury and Stevens of Waterbury

Offered by: Senators Ashe, Baruth, Fox, Lyons and Snelling

Whereas, the 2011–2012 Mt. Mansfield Union High School (MMU) boys' basketball team impressed and outscored its opponents from the season's start, defeating all but one of them on the hardwood floor, and

Whereas, as the weeks progressed, it became apparent that these talented dribblers and shooters constituted a team capable of winning the Division I state championship, and

Whereas, in the playoff competition, the Cougars not unexpectedly reached the ultimate game for the state title against the defending Division I champions, the Green Knights of Rice Memorial High School, and

Whereas, before an enthusiastic crowd at the University of Vermont's Patrick Gymnasium, the Cougars, one of whom was recovering from an injured ankle and a second fighting the flu, tried their best but found themselves outpaced and outscored and trailing the Green Knights by five points at halftime, and

Whereas, recognizing that their entire season's path to glory was now at stake, the MMU boys reviewed their predicament and emerged psychologically ready to tackle the challenge before them, and

Whereas, in the course of the second half, one Cougar scored 11, another nine, and two more players each tallied eight, giving MMU a potent offensive drive, and

Whereas, the Cougars' third-quarter scoring romp over Rice of 16–4 proved decisive, and

Whereas, when the final buzzer sounded, the Cougars were thrilled with their 41–34 victory and thrilled to be the new Division I boys’ basketball champions, and

Whereas, the roster of players who won this come-from-behind championship contest included Troy Springer, Sean Springer, Tom Lacy, TJ Wesson, Grant McKinstrie, Cody Sharrow, Hayden Pochop, Josh Fitzgerald, Nick Bergeron, Alec Carew, Derek Villeneuve, and Eric Suder, and

Whereas, Head Coach Jeff Davis, assistant coaches Tim MacDonnell, Jeff Brown, and Sam Lacy, and team manager Thomas Caswell were all essential to MMU’s great season, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the Mt. Mansfield Union High School Cougars 2012 Division I championship boys’ basketball 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. 315.

House concurrent resolution congratulating the Mt. Mansfield Union High School Cougars 2012 Division I championship boys’ Nordic skiing team

Offered by: Representatives Till of Jericho, O’Brien of Richmond, Frank of Underhill, Ellis of Waterbury and Stevens of Waterbury

Offered by: Senators Ashe, Baruth, Fox, Lyons and Snelling

Whereas, 2012 was a banner year for boys’ Nordic skiing at Mt. Mansfield Union High School (MMU), and

Whereas, the two-day state championship competition began in familiar territory with the first day occurring on MMU’s home territory in Jericho, and

Whereas, in the first day’s event, known as the freestyle or skate competition, an MMU skier finished the individually scored race in first place, and the Cougars also won the team relay, and

Whereas, the second or classic day, this year skied at Grafton Ponds, the same MMU Cougar once again won the individual race, and two of his teammates assisted the team’s cause by clinching second and third places, and

Whereas, these laudable individual finishes, when added together with the strong second-place finish in the team relay skied at Grafton Ponds, earned the Cougars the 2012 Division I boys’ Nordic skiing crown, and

Whereas, MMU finished the day with an impressively low 64 points compared to its nearest rival, Mount Anthony Union High School, which earned 129 points, and

Whereas, the highly successful 2012 MMU boys' Nordic skiing roster included Joe Adkisson, Will Adkisson, Jack Cavic, Keegan Cummings, Riley Cummings, Danny Ebenstein, Bill Harmeyer, Henry Harmeyer, Ben Hegman, Jack Hegman, Curren Hill, Ben King, Asher Lehrer-Small, Tim Lindberg, Adrian Lini, Quinn Munns, Liam Osler, Alec Pelton, Wylie Picotte, Derrek Schultz, Nick Shallow, and Austin Tremblay, and

Whereas, Head Coach Eric Barker and assistant coaches Al Sartwell and Sarah Waterman deserve credit for developing this championship team, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the Mt. Mansfield Union High School Cougars 2012 Division I championship boys' Nordic skiing 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. 316.

House concurrent resolution congratulating the Mt. Mansfield Union High School Cougars 2012 Division I girls' alpine state championship team

Offered by: Representatives Till of Jericho, Frank of Underhill, O'Brien of Richmond, Ellis of Waterbury and Stevens of Waterbury

Offered by: Senators Ashe, Baruth, Fox, Lyons and Snelling

Whereas, as defending Division I state champions, the Mt. Mansfield Union High School (MMU) girls' alpine skiers were ready to defend their title, and

Whereas, the Cougars were clearly the best among the competitors as the final results reflected at the state championship skied at Pico Mountain, and

Whereas, in the two-run slalom competition, the combined time of an MMU team member of one minute, 9.58 seconds made her the first place winner, and this Cougar skier completed the course 64 hundredths of a second ahead of her nearest challenger, and

Whereas, similarly, in the single-run giant slalom race, a more comfortable margin of 20 seconds separated the winning Cougar's 45.11 seconds time from the second-place finisher, and

Whereas, other team members also skied swiftly, completing their runs with excellent times, and

Whereas, in adding up the day's points, the Cougars were proud to be the lowest scoring team with 64 points which was a 98-point lead over their second place competitor, and

Whereas, this speedy squad of dedicated and proficient alpine skiers included Alison Chivers, Jennifer Finan, Lucy Harrington, Dakotah Patnode, Darcy Patnode, and Victoria Rosales, and

Whereas, varsity Alpine skiing Head Coach Julie Sloan and able Alpine assistant coach Greg Pajala instructed the skiers on the intricacies and nuances of the sport, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the Mt. Mansfield Union High School Cougars 2012 Division I girls' alpine state championship 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. 317.

House concurrent resolution honoring the federal TRIO programs in Vermont

Offered by: Representatives French of Randolph, Townsend of Randolph, Canfield of Fair Haven, Dickinson of St. Albans Town, Helm of Fair Haven, Hooper of Montpelier, Jerman of Essex, Kitzmiller of Montpelier, Lawrence of Lyndon, Lippert of Hinesburg, Masland of Thetford and Woodward of Johnson

Whereas, promoting the academic success of students who come from families with minimal economic resources and who aspire to be the first member of their family to attend college is the laudable goal of the federal TRIO programs, and, in Vermont, these important academic preparatory programs serve students at seven colleges and through the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation, and

Whereas, Upward Bound, the original federally financed college incentive program for disadvantaged students, was established in 1965 under the auspices of the federal Office of Economic Opportunity, and, in coordination with the later-established Upward Bound Math Science, helps secondary school students from financially disadvantaged families prepare for college, and

Whereas, the Talent Search Program, initially authorized in the Higher Education Act of 1965, assists students early in the college admissions and financial aid process, and

Whereas, the federal Education Amendments of 1968 reauthorized these two original programs, established Special Services for Disadvantaged Students, and united all three under the umbrella of the federal Office (now Department) of Education, and

Whereas, this threesome of special programs for students from low-income backgrounds became known informally as TRIO, and

Whereas, over the ensuing decades, additional programs such as Veterans Upward Bound, Student Support Services, Educational Opportunity Centers, and the Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program have all been added to the TRIO mix, and

Whereas, in 1992, Congress renamed and combined all of the programs as the federal TRIO programs, and

Whereas, the federal TRIO programs continue to be a gateway for financially disadvantaged students to attend college, and

Whereas, students and administrators representing the federal TRIO programs in Vermont are visiting the state house today, Thursday, March 22, 2012, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly is pleased to honor the outstanding work of the federal TRIO programs in Vermont, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Project TRIO staff at Vermont Technical College.

H.C.R. 318.

House concurrent resolution congratulating Vermont Railway on its selection as the 2012 Shortline Railroad of the Year

Offered by: Representatives Bohi of Hartford, Andrews of Rutland City, Aswad of Burlington, Bissonnette of Winooski, Bouchard of Colchester, Brennan of Colchester, Burke of Brattleboro, Buxton of Tunbridge, Champion of Bennington, Christie of Hartford, Clarkson of Woodstock, Copeland-Hanzas of Bradford, Corcoran of Bennington, Courcelle of Rutland City, Dakin of Chester, Donahue of Northfield, Edwards of Brattleboro, Evans of Essex, Fagan of Rutland City, Fisher of Lincoln, Haas of Rochester, Higley of Lowell, Howard of Cambridge, Hubert of Milton, Jerman of Essex, Krebs of South Hero, Lanpher of Vergennes, Lewis of Derby, Malcolm of Pawlet,

Martin of Springfield, McCullough of Williston, Moran of Wardsboro, Munger of South Burlington, O'Sullivan of Burlington, Peaslee of Guildhall, Peltz of Woodbury, Potter of Clarendon, Russell of Rutland City, Strong of Albany, Stuart of Brattleboro, Till of Jericho, Toll of Danville, Townsend of Randolph, Wilson of Manchester, Woodward of Johnson, Yantachka of Charlotte and Young of Glover

Offered by: Senators Cummings, Flory, Hartwell, Kitchel, Mazza and Westman

Whereas, shortline railroads serve a vital economic role hauling freight in the most efficient and cost-effective manner over distances that larger haulers would not favor, and

Whereas, *Railway Age*, the transportation industry's oldest trade publication, annually awards the special honor of Shortline of the Year to one deserving railroad with a limited track system, and

Whereas, after much consideration, the staff of *Railway Age* selected Vermont Railway (VTR) as the 2012 Shortline of the Year, and

Whereas, the company's founder, Jay Wulfson, established this first-in-the nation public-private rail partnership in 1964, and before the end of its first day of operation, VTR was ordering larger size locomotives to haul its increasing freight traffic, and

Whereas, in 1967, VTR began offering intermodal piggyback trailer-on-flatcar service for shipments into and out of Vermont, which proved popular, and

Whereas, over the years, VTR acquired other rail lines, including the Clarendon and Pittsford (1972), a portion of the D&H (1983), the Green Mountain Railroad (1997), and most recently the Washington County Railroad and the New York & Ogdensburg Railway, all now organized into the Vermont Rail System, a family-owned enterprise with 120 employees and over 230 miles of track supporting freight and passenger services, and

Whereas, in selecting the VTR for this special honor, *Railway Age* cited the weather of 2011, starting with the spring floods and then the historic damage left by Tropical Storm Irene, resulting in unprecedented rail bed washouts and other infrastructure damage, and

Whereas, VTR arranged detours and transloads for freight, largely restored the severely damaged rail infrastructure in three weeks, helped repair Route 107 by moving 130,000 tons of rock in 10 weeks, and with the agency of transportation implemented a project to enhance Amtrak's Ethan Allen service on the VTR right-of-way, and

Whereas, the award will be officially presented to VTR in Indianapolis on April 24, 2012, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates Vermont Railway on its selection as the 2012 Shortline Railroad of the Year, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Vermont Railway in Burlington.