

No. R-108. House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2019 Vermont Prudential Spirit of Community Awards Honorees and Distinguished Finalists.

(H.C.R.90)

Offered by: Representatives Demrow of Corinth, Graham of Williamstown, Brumsted of Shelburne, Killacky of South Burlington, LaLonde of South Burlington, Pugh of South Burlington, Townsend of South Burlington, and Webb of Shelburne

Offered by: Senator MacDonald

Whereas, Prudential Financial and the National Association of Secondary School Principals sponsor the annual Prudential Spirit of Community Awards, honoring secondary school students who volunteer in their communities, and

Whereas, in every state and the District of Columbia, two students are recognized as Distinguished Finalists and receive a bronze medal, and two are chosen to be State Honorees and are presented a silver medal, a \$1,000 award, and a trip to Washington, D.C. to compete for a \$5,000 national prize, and

Whereas, in Vermont, one of the 2019 Distinguished Finalists was Graniteville resident Brody Brown, a freshman at Williamstown Middle and High School, who after a close friend died of leukemia, dedicated hundreds of volunteer hours to his community by organizing an annual food drive, a toy drive for a local hospital, an anti-bullying project at his school, and

Whereas, Kathryn Gruendling, a Shelburne resident and Champlain Valley Union High School junior, was honored as a Distinguished Finalist for her organization of a virtual 5K race team to participate in a 9/11 Heroes Run, raising \$1,100 for the Travis Manion Foundation, which supports veterans and the families of soldiers killed in combat, and

Whereas, Vermont Honoree Peter Forgione of South Burlington, an eighth grader at Christ the King School in Burlington, organized an Operation Shoebox drive, asking friends to bring small games, snacks, and toiletries as birthday presents to fill 100 shoeboxes to send to soldiers, and an in-school drive supplemented this effort; he also organizes and cooks dinners for the Anew Place emergency shelter, where many of the diners are veterans, and

Whereas, Sophia Thomas, a South Burlington High School senior, was chosen as the Vermont Honoree in recognition of her many volunteer hours at the University of Vermont Medical Center's pediatric unit, in gratitude for its treatment of her and her family, where she plays with patients and creates a "shared sense of trust" because she understands "what it's like to be a kid in a hospital," now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the 2019 Vermont Prudential Spirit of Community Awards Honorees and Distinguished Finalists, and be it further

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