

No. R-209. House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2009 Essex High School *We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution* state championship class.

(H.C.R.145)

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

Whereas, the National Center for Civic Education with funding from the U.S. Department of Education has established the *We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution*, an instructional course designed to provide students greater insight into the U.S. Constitution, and

Whereas, in Vermont, the Vermont Bar Association serves as the local sponsoring organization, and

Whereas, the course begins with summer readings focusing on the following constitutional inquiries: (1) What are the philosophical and historical foundations of the American political system? (2) How did the framers create the Constitution? (3) How did the values and principles embodied in the Constitution shape American institutions and practices? (4) How have the protections of the Bill of Rights been developed and expanded? (5) What rights does the Bill of Rights protect? and (6) What are the roles of the citizens in American democracy?, and

Whereas, during the fall, the course incorporates the constitutional curriculum and critical thinking, problem solving, and cooperative learning skills, and

Whereas, in January, the Vermont-based participating classes gathered at the state house to engage in a day-long series of mock congressional hearings at which the students presented testimony before panels of constitutional experts who queried the youngsters thoroughly, and

Whereas, the panels of judges awarded the Vermont state championship to the class from Essex High School, whose members are Ross Kelley, Ian Muneshwar, Caitlin Simpson, Charlotte Ross, Jennifer Etter, Jacob Dubie, Rebecca Wistrom, Kelly Barford, Chris Bergeron, Eisha Lichtenstein, Dylan Renca, Chajin Wu, Kylie Dally, Mark Irwin, and Taylor Dorn, and their teacher, Tim Root, has been an invaluable academic mentor, and

Whereas, many of these Essex High School students traveled to Washington, D.C., last week and competed in the 2009 *We the People* national competition, representing Vermont with distinction as the Essex team scored among the top 15 in the nation and was honored as the Northeast Regional champion, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the 2009 Essex High School *We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution* state championship class, and be it further

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