

**No. R-244. House concurrent resolution commemorating the opening of the newly rebuilt Harris Hill Ski Jump in Brattleboro.**

(H.C.R. 164)

Offered by: Representatives Milkey of Brattleboro, Burke of Brattleboro, Copeland-Hanzas of Bradford, Edwards of Brattleboro, Masland of Thetford and O'Donnell of Vernon

Whereas, ski jumping and Vermont have been closely intertwined for over eight decades through the Harris Hill Ski Jump in Brattleboro, and

Whereas, Brattleboro native Fred Harris had already earned his place in the athletic and winter lore of northern New England when, as a Dartmouth undergraduate student, he founded the Dartmouth Outing Club and the college's winter carnival, and

Whereas, after graduating from Dartmouth, Fred Harris returned to Brattleboro and started a winter carnival and outing club in his hometown, and

Whereas, another Fred Harris project, the Harris Hill Ski Jump, has left a tangible impact on Brattleboro and winter athletic competition in New England, and

Whereas, Fred Harris built the famous ski jump in 1922 as a wooden trestle and earth structure with a 200-step climb to the top, and

Whereas, this impressive structure, the state's only Olympic ski jump, became the setting for 18 national and regional championships, and it has served as the site of the annual Harris Hill Ski Jumping Competition, an event which attracts thousands of paying spectators and the top American and international ski jumpers, and

Whereas, after the winter of 2005, the Harris Hill Ski Jump was shuttered due to safety concerns about the aging structure, and its future was left in doubt, and

Whereas, despite the major financial challenge, a dedicated team of local volunteers, through the nonprofit Harris Hill Ski Jump Inc., raised \$575,000.00 and designed and built a new steel ski jump that rises majestically 700 feet over Brattleboro, and

Whereas, on the weekend of February 14–15, 2009, following a four-year hiatus, competitive ski jumping returned to the famous Brattleboro site as over 8,000 spectators joyously watched some of the world's best ski jumpers, including 15-year old Tara Geraghty-Moats of West Fairlee, jump adroitly at the 85th Harris Hill Ski Jumping Competition, and

Whereas, the reopening of the Harris Hill Ski Jump is a wonderful event for the sport of ski jumping and the town of Brattleboro, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly is pleased to commemorate the opening of the newly rebuilt Harris Hill Ski Jump in Brattleboro and commends the many volunteers who brought it to fruition, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Harris Hill Ski Jump Inc. in Brattleboro.