

No. R-204. House concurrent resolution congratulating the Bethel Public Library on its 125th anniversary.

(H.C.R.165)

Offered by: Representative Haas of Rochester

Offered by: Senators Clarkson, McCormack, and Nitka

Whereas, a local public library is the gem of any civilized and cultured community, even in the digital information age, and

Whereas, the town of Bethel is extremely proud of its local public library that the Bethel Library Association established in 1892, and

Whereas, the first annual meeting of the Bethel Library Association was called to order on November 11, 1892, and the attendees elected Mr. Blaisdell as Chair, Mr. Fred Arnold as President, and, most importantly, Miss Clara A. Barrows as the Bethel Public Library's first librarian, and

Whereas, at first, the Bethel Public Library was opened only on Saturday evenings, and until 1909, it was located in the rear of the new town hall's basement, and

Whereas, to reach this out-of-the-way location necessitated the library's patrons walking past the town's jail cells that on a Saturday evening were often filled with inebriated weekend celebrants, and

Whereas, Mrs. A. Lee Cady, an early librarian, demanded that her daughter walk with her to the library, as the librarian was fearful of traversing this less-than-hospitable corridor unaccompanied, and

Whereas, in 1909, the library relocated to a large airy room on the upper floor of the former movie theater building, but that location presented new problems, as accessing it meant ascending a long exterior staircase that was challenging for older residents and often snow- and ice-covered during the winter, and

Whereas, eventually, a move to the old bank building proved far more satisfactory, and when longtime Bethel Library Association President Mary Branliere died in 1965, her generous bequest, which included the naming of an architect, facilitated the construction of a welcomed building addition, and

Whereas, although the Bethel Public Library is primarily financed through private gifts and bequests, it is designated as a public library because it receives a minimum municipal contribution and is open to all, and

Whereas, the still-thriving Bethel Public Library, under the outstanding direction of 23-year veteran librarian Cathy Day and the wise guidance of the Bethel Library Association, is celebrating its 125th anniversary during 2017, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the Bethel Public Library on its 125th anniversary, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Bethel Public Library.