

No. R-240. House concurrent resolution honoring Heinz Hester for his leadership in the development of an international student exchange program.

(H.C.R.175)

Offered by: Representatives Lanpher of Vergennes, Smith of New Haven, and Van Wyck of Ferrisburgh

Offered by: Senators Ayer and Bray

Whereas, international student exchange programs offer the participants a special opportunity to experience the culture, family life, and language of another nation, and

Whereas, Vergennes Union High School (VUHS) and the Goetheschule in Bochum, Germany have established a model international student exchange program, and

Whereas, the success of this endeavor is largely attributable to Heinz Hester, an English and political science Goetheschule teacher, who grew up in the Sauerland, an area of Germany geographically similar to Vermont, and

Whereas, in the spring of 1986, while visiting Vermont, Heinz Hester appeared at VUHS and proposed the establishment of an international student exchange between the two schools, and

Whereas, the initial group of VUHS students traveled to Bochum, Germany in February 1987, and Heinz Hester and the original contingent of his Goetheschule students arrived at VUHS in the fall of 1987, and

Whereas, these first successful exchanges started a continuing series of periodic cross-Atlantic educational excursions, and

Whereas, roughly 30 students visiting Vermont stay with area host families, attend VUHS classes, and visit local attractions, and

Whereas, the students on both sides of the Atlantic develop lifelong friendships and gain an international perspective, and

Whereas, Heinz Hester has served as the impetus for this unusual program and has been a wonderful host and guide for the Vermont students visiting Bochum, Germany, and

Whereas, his return to Vergennes is always eagerly welcomed, as he renews enduring friendships with members of the VUHS community, and

Whereas, Heinz Hester, who is retiring this year, has been an extraordinary inspiration to students in both Germany and Vermont, and his educational leadership has truly been in a class by itself, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors Heinz Hester for his leadership in the development of an international student exchange program, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to VUHS for presentation to Heinz Hester.