

No. R-248. House concurrent resolution commemorating the 100th anniversary of the birth of the Russian author, historian, and former Cavendish resident Aleksandr Isayevich Solzhenitsyn.

(H.C.R.199)

Offered by: Representative Christensen of Weathersfield

Offered by: Senators Clarkson, McCormack, and Nitka

Whereas, Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, one of Russia's most distinguished intellectuals and noted dissidents during the Soviet era, was born in Kislovodsk, Russia, on December 11, 1918, and

Whereas, although a decorated artillery officer during World War II, his criticism of Joseph Stalin's leadership and the Soviet Army's conduct resulted in Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn's imprisonment from 1945 to 1953, and

Whereas, in 1962, Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn's description of his imprisonment, *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*, became his only book published in the former Soviet Union, and

Whereas, he was the recipient of the 1970 Nobel Prize for Literature, but he only accepted this honor in 1974, following the publication in the west of *The Gulag Archipelago* and his expulsion from the Soviet Union, and

Whereas, in 1975, Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn visited Norwich University, and in 1976, he and his family moved to an isolated estate in Cavendish, where the sign placed outside the general store reading "No Directions to the Solzhenitsyn Home" epitomized the town's protection of his privacy, and

Whereas, the respect Cavendish afforded Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn enabled him to finish his multi-volume Russian history novel, *The Red Wheel*, and

Whereas, in March 1994, prior to his return to post-Soviet Russia, Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn attended the Cavendish Town Meeting and thanked the town's citizens for their wonderful welcome and support, and

Whereas, Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn resided and worked in Russia until his death in Moscow on August 3, 2008 at 89 years of age, and

Whereas, the Cavendish Historical Society, in association with the Vermont Historical Society, the Vermont Humanities Council, the Russian studies program at the University of Vermont, and members of the Solzhenitsyn family, is conducting a series of commemorative programs, including an exhibit at the Vermont Historical Society Museum, local presentations, and its highly praised permanent exhibit honoring Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn located at the Cavendish Stone Church, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly commemorates the 100th anniversary of the birth of the Russian author, historian, and former Cavendish resident Aleksandr Isayevich Solzhenitsyn, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn's son and Cavendish resident Ignat Solzhenitsyn and to the Cavendish Historical Society.