

No. R-266. House concurrent resolution congratulating St. Johnsbury Elks Lodge #1343 on its centennial anniversary.

(H.C.R.217)

Offered by: Representatives Toll of Danville, Beck of St. Johnsbury, Willhoit of St. Johnsbury, Batchelor of Derby, Feltus of Lyndon, Higley of Lowell, Lawrence of Lyndon, Lefebvre of Newark, Marcotte of Coventry, Martel of Waterford, Quimby of Concord, Smith of Derby, Strong of Albany, Troiano of Stannard, Viens of Newport City, and Young of Glover

Offered by: Senators Benning, Kitchel, Rodgers, and Starr

Whereas, in the late 1860s, a small group of New York City theatrical professionals, known as the Jolly Corks, gathered for congenial evenings of camaraderie, and

Whereas, desirous of adopting a more serious purpose, on February 16, 1868, the Jolly Corks voted to become the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks (the Elks) and dedicated the organization to “the principles of charity, justice, brotherly love and fidelity,” and

Whereas, today, the Elks consist of approximately 2,000 lodges and 850,000 members nationwide of whom roughly 7,000 are in Vermont, and

Whereas, in 1917, the St. Johnsbury Elks Lodge #1343 (the Lodge) was established, and it is headquartered in the home of Vermont’s 21st and 26th governor, Erastus Fairbanks, who served from 1852 to 1853 and 1860–1861 and who also founded St. Johnsbury Academy, and

Whereas, the Lodge’s membership is drawn from throughout the Northeast Kingdom, and it supports many charitable activities, including youth programs, projects benefiting active military personnel and veterans, local food shelves, and home health services, and

Whereas, the Elks’ volunteer-managed fundraising projects remit all money raised to the intended worthy endeavors, and the Lodge is an active supporter of the Vermont State Elks Association’s Silver Towers Camp for persons with disabilities, and

Whereas, on July 22, 2017, the Lodge joyfully celebrated its 100th anniversary, including a parade, and the Lodge recognized the local firefighters, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, American Legion members, the vintage stock cars from Northeastern Speedway in Waterford, and the other individuals and organizations that participated in this festive and colorful event, and

Whereas, the Lodge looks forward to a new century of meaningful community service, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates St. Johnsbury Elks Lodge #1343 on its centennial anniversary, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to St. Johnsbury Elks Lodge #1343.