

No. R-305. House concurrent resolution honoring Vermont Public Radio's Vermont Edition for its extraordinary community service in the aftermath of Tropical Storm Irene.

(H.C.R.224)

Offered by: Representatives Masland of Thetford, Aswad of Burlington, Bohi of Hartford, Botzow of Pownal, Browning of Arlington, Burke of Brattleboro, Buxton of Tunbridge, Champion of Bennington, Cheney of Norwich, Clarkson of Woodstock, Courcelle of Rutland City, Ellis of Waterbury, Haas of Rochester, Lanpher of Vergennes, Manwaring of Wilmington, Pearson of Burlington, Potter of Clarendon, Russell of Rutland City, Shand of Weathersfield, Sharpe of Bristol and Wilson of Manchester

Whereas, on August 28, 2011, Tropical Storm Irene devastated many Vermont communities with extremely heavy rain and disastrous flooding, and

Whereas, in the days following the storm, one of the major sources of immediate and long-term informational assistance was Vermont Edition, the news and public affairs program heard weekdays on Vermont Public Radio (VPR), and

Whereas, once Tropical Storm Irene struck, Vermont Edition host, Jane Lindholm, and managing producer, Patti Daniels, along with VPR News Director, Ross Sneyd, and Vice President for News & Programming, John Van Hoesen, decided to discard the regular format and produce twice-a-day live programming devoted exclusively to Tropical Storm Irene-related information that on occasion extended beyond the normal 60-minute broadcast time, and

Whereas, the programs were initially focused on information useful for an entire town or all flood victims until Ross Sneyd announced an exception to address an individual's specific problem, and

Whereas, after that first instance, the Vermont Edition staff began searching, both through on-air inquiries and off-air research, for answers to

many listeners' urgent and perplexing questions, often finding answers that would be beneficial for many others, and

Whereas, these disaster-centered Vermont Edition programs were produced through the combined efforts of the entire VPR staff who contributed incredible time and effort to assist the victims of Tropical Storm Irene who were attentively listening to the live broadcasts via their radios, computers, or smart phones, going to the special web page links, and viewing the Facebook postings that appeared on the respective VPR sites, and

Whereas, listeners came to rely on Vermont Edition's factual and reassuring voice, enabling Vermonters to comprehend the extent of the storm-related damage and know that neighbors, VTrans and town road crews, and National Guard personnel from several states were providing essential assistance, and

Whereas, although after a period of time Vermont Edition eased back into its more typical programming, it continues to air post-Irene features on a regular basis, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors Vermont Public Radio's Vermont Edition for its extraordinary community service in the aftermath of Tropical Storm Irene, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Vermont Public Radio in Colchester.