

No. R-329. House concurrent resolution honoring Brittany Gilbert for her remarkable humanitarian work in Haiti.

(H.C.R.236)

Offered by: Representative O'Donnell of Vernon

Whereas, as a high school student, Brittany Gilbert volunteered at a Heartline Ministries-operated orphanage in the Haitian capital of Port-au-Prince, and

Whereas, following her high school graduation, she decided to return to the orphanage and continue working with the young children under its care, and

Whereas, at the time of the recent devastating earthquake in Port-au-Prince, many of the orphanage's senior staff were temporarily in Florida at the Heartline Ministries administrative offices, and Brittany Gilbert was acting in a supervisory role at the orphanage, and

Whereas, Brittany Gilbert and one other volunteer evacuated the children, all of whom survived this monumental disaster, to another Heartline Ministries location in Port-au-Prince as most of the orphanage was uninhabitable, and

Whereas, once all of the youngsters were supposedly removed from the destroyed orphanage building, Brittany realized that one infant was missing, and she dashed back inside, risking her own life to remove the baby from the dangerous site, and

Whereas, she made trips back to the orphanage to salvage food and other supplies and eventually returned with the over-20 young orphans to the one building at the orphanage that remained relatively stable in order to provide the

children with a familiar and reassuring environment in the midst of the crisis, and

Whereas, Brittany's mother, Karen Gilbert, helped organize a group of doctors and other volunteers who flew with 4,000 pounds of food to the Haitian capital in an airplane which Vermont State Senator John Campbell helped arrange in cooperation with his brother, a Florida-based airplane pilot, and

Whereas, the office of U.S. Representative Peter Welch quickly contacted the U.S. Department of State to expedite assistance for Brittany and the orphanage, and

Whereas, the courage, faith, and leadership that Brittany Gilbert has displayed since the earthquake are truly remarkable and worthy of praise, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors Brittany Gilbert for her remarkable humanitarian work in Haiti, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Brittany Gilbert and Karen Gilbert.