

**No. R-347. House concurrent resolution honoring the exemplary performance of the volunteer fire departments of Sheldon, Swanton, Enosburg, Cambridge, Fairfield, Highgate, and St. Albans Town in combating the August 2009 RockTenn Mill blaze in Sheldon Springs.**

(H.C.R.250)

Offered by: Representatives Savage of Swanton, Consejo of Sheldon, Dickinson of St. Albans Town, Howard of Cambridge, Howrigan of Fairfield, McAllister of Highgate, Pearce of Richford and Perley of Enosburg

Offered by: Senators Brock and Kittell

Whereas, early on Sunday morning, August 16, 2009, a five-alarm fire broke out at the large RockTenn Missisquoi Mill in Sheldon Springs, and

Whereas, the hometown Sheldon volunteer fire department was first on the scene and arrived as flames were shooting through the mill's roof, and

Whereas, the enormity and intensity of the fire was far beyond the scope of Sheldon's excellent but small fire department's ability to extinguish without additional support from neighboring towns, and

Whereas, immediately upon witnessing this stunning conflagration, Sheldon Fire Chief Richard Piaseczny activated the mutual aid system that fire departments rely on to combat large blazes, and

Whereas, in response to the urgent call for assistance from Sheldon, volunteer fire departments from the neighboring towns of Enosburg and Swanton responded quickly, and

Whereas, the need for still further support became apparent, and four more volunteer fire departments from further afield in Cambridge, Fairfield, Highgate, and St. Albans Town raced to the scene in the predawn hours, and

Whereas, these superb firefighting volunteers remained at the RockTenn Mill through the night and well past sunrise and did not depart the fire site until 9:00 a.m. on Monday morning, and

Whereas, their expert efforts were successful as the RockTenn Mill soon reopened, and

Whereas, this great collaboration of seven small rural volunteer fire departments in extinguishing a blaze that would have challenged even a large fulltime urban fire department reflects the skill and personal commitment to community service that characterize Vermont's volunteer firefighters, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly is proud to honor the exemplary performance of the volunteer fire departments of Sheldon, Swanton, Enosburg, Cambridge, Fairfield, Highgate, and St. Albans Town in combating the August 2009 RockTenn Mill blaze in Sheldon Springs, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to each of the volunteer fire departments honored in this resolution.