

No. R-380. House concurrent resolution designating April 9, 2014 as the Battle of Cedar Creek Remembrance.

(H.C.R.275)

Offered by: Representatives Devereux of Mount Holly, Branagan of Georgia, Jerman of Essex, and Marek of Newfane

Whereas, Virginia's Shenandoah Valley was vital to the Confederate States of America, and

Whereas, Lieutenant General Ulysses Grant created the Army of the Shenandoah, and instructed its commander, Major General Philip Sheridan, to defeat the Confederate Army under Lieutenant General Jubal Early that defended the Valley, and

Whereas, in the new army were the First Vermont Brigade, the First Vermont Cavalry, the Tenth Vermont, and the Eighth Vermont, and

Whereas, in September 1864, the Army of the Shenandoah, with Vermonters playing important roles, twice defeated Early's army, and

Whereas, the Army of the Shenandoah returned in mid-October and dug in on high ground above Cedar Creek, and

Whereas, a confident General Sheridan journeyed to Washington, D.C., for strategy meetings, and

Whereas, before dawn on October 19, 1864, Early's reinforced army launched a surprise attack across Cedar Creek, and

Whereas, the Eighth Vermont Regiment made an heroic and costly stand on a ridge top, and the men of the Tenth Vermont attacked to recapture several cannons, and

Whereas, the Vermont Brigade achieved a hastily formed battleline that finally halted Early's advance, and

Whereas, Major General Sheridan reached his battered army after a 12-mile ride from Winchester, and launched a counterattack that turned the battle into a Union victory, and

Whereas, Vermont units played major roles in the counterattack, with the Vermont Cavalry alone capturing 23 cannons and three battle flags, and

Whereas, the Cedar Creek victory won Union control of the Shenandoah Valley, ensuring Abraham Lincoln's 1864 presidential win, and this epic battle is depicted in Julian Scott's large State House painting, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly designates April 9, 2014 as the Battle of Cedar Creek Remembrance Day with ceremonies to be held in the Cedar Creek Room, including the unveiling of a Vermont historic marker for the Cedar Creek Battlefield, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Vermont Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission, the Vermont Historical Society, and the Friends of the Vermont State House.