

No. R-495. House concurrent resolution congratulating the Peacham Library on its bicentennial anniversary.

(H.C.R.363)

Offered by: Representative Toll of Danville

Offered by: Senators Kitchel and Choate

Whereas, the history of the Peacham Library is closely linked to that of the Caledonia County Grammar School (Peacham Academy), and

Whereas, on August 9, 1810, a group of the academy's students formed The Peacham Juvenile Library Society for the purpose of providing a research resource for the school's debating society, and

Whereas, for a \$2.00 fee, an aspiring debater could be enrolled as a proprietor of the library, and

Whereas, although The Peacham Juvenile Library Society continued to develop a book collection throughout the 19th century, the books lacked any permanent home, and

Whereas, in 1855, the proprietors, seeking an official legal status for the library, secured a legislatively granted charter in the form of Act 108, "An act to Incorporate the Peacham Juvenile Library Society," and

Whereas, Thaddeus Stevens, a Danville native and the famous Civil War-era congressional advocate for emancipation of the slaves, offered the library several challenge grants intended to encourage local philanthropy, and at his death in 1868, bequeathed \$1,000.00 to the town of Peacham with the interest directed to the library, and

Whereas, in 1909, the more financially prosperous Peacham Juvenile Library Society purchased a building at Peacham Corner to serve as the permanent home for its printed materials and as an inviting place for patrons to visit and in which to read, and

Whereas, in 1914, George Harvey, a Peacham native and future United States Ambassador to Great Britain, donated 1,000 volumes, and by the 1940s, the collection had expanded to over 6,000 published items, and

Whereas, tragedy struck the library on January 27, 1959, when a devastating fire destroyed the building and nearly every catalogued item, and

Whereas, a community effort resulted in the dedication of a new book-filled edifice on August 10, 1960, the sesquicentennial anniversary of the library, and

Whereas, in 1972, the name of this much-respected community institution was legally changed to the Peacham Library, Inc. (Peacham Library), reflecting its actual patronage, and

Whereas, in 2001, a major addition nearly doubling the building's size, funded with state and local contributions and including The Gilmore Gallery, in honor of major donor Horace Gilmore, was opened, and

Whereas, the Peacham Library is now the setting for many community events, ranging from cinematic presentations to art exhibitions, and has over 500 registered patrons and a collection exceeding 9,200 volumes, and

Whereas, on August 8, 2010, Peacham residents will joyously and proudly celebrate the library's bicentennial anniversary, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the Peacham Library on its bicentennial anniversary, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Cornelia Hasenfuss, treasurer of the Peacham Library.