

No. R-441. House concurrent resolution commemorating the 80th Anniversary of the Castleton Colonial Day Historic House Tour.

(H.C.R.367)

Offered by: Representatives Helm of Fair Haven and Canfield of Fair Haven

Whereas, in 1761, New Hampshire Governor Benning Wentworth granted a charter to Samuel Brown and 40 other proprietors for the town of Castleton, making this Rutland County municipality one of the oldest in Vermont, and

Whereas, in May 1775, Ethan Allen and approximately 250 American troops, including Green Mountain Boys as well as the later infamous Benedict Arnold, encamped in the center of Castleton on the property of Richard Bentley, in preparation for their assault on Fort Ticonderoga, and

Whereas, in the early 19th century, Castleton village, at the town's center, prospered from milling, slate production, and stagecoach commerce, and

Whereas, a number of beautiful homes featuring spiral staircases, vaulted stair-and-entrance combinations, and decorative friezes were built under the guidance of joiners or woodcrafting specialists such as Thomas Dake, and

Whereas, Thomas Dake's custom-designed pulpit at the Castleton Federated Church is considered his construction masterpiece, and

Whereas, in 1938, the Ladies Aid Society of the Castleton Federated Church conducted the first Castleton Colonial Day Historic House Tour, and

Whereas, a few years after the tour's inauguration, the Castleton Woman's Club assumed responsibility for this annual event that now includes over 20 homes, commercial buildings, and historic sites, and

Whereas, proceeds from ticket sales are applied to community improvement projects, such as the planting of fruit trees on Main Street in Castleton, the awarding of college scholarships, and the restoration of period clothing, and

Whereas, Castleton Village Historic District is now on the National Register of Historic Places and encompasses the trail of the blue cat of Castleton that Catherine Cate Coblenz describes in her children's book, *The Blue Cat of Castle Town*, and

Whereas, recent past Castleton Woman's Club presidents Linda Pritchard, JoAnn Riley, Deborah Hadeka, and Holly Hitchcock were instrumental in the continuation and promotion of the Castleton Colonial Day Historic House Tour, and the club's acting president, Joan Chader, has continued this wonderful tradition that benefits the community, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly commemorates the 80th anniversary of the Castleton Colonial Day Historic House Tour, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Joan Chader, acting president of the Castleton Woman's Club.