

No. R-485. House concurrent resolution commemorating the 40th anniversary of the Retired Senior Volunteer Program's establishment in Bennington County.

(H.C.R.374)

Offered by: Representatives Morrissey of Bennington, Botzow of Pownal, Browning of Arlington, Champion of Bennington, Corcoran of Bennington, Komline of Dorset, Miller of Shaftsbury, Mook of Bennington and Wilson of Manchester

Offered by: Senators Hartwell and Sears

Whereas, the federal Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) was the outgrowth of various local programs aimed at promoting “engagement, activity, acquaintanceship, and growth for older Americans” and was formally established in 1969 as part of the Older Americans Act, and

Whereas, the mission of RSVP is “to reinvest the talents and skills of a lifetime into our communities through volunteer service,” and

Whereas, on September 21, 1993, the Corporation for National and Community Service was established in Public Law 101-610, and within its organizational structure Congress included the new National Senior Service Corps (also referred to as Senior Corps), which comprises RSVP as well as the Foster Grandparent and Senior Companion Programs, and

Whereas, RSVP in Bennington County began in 1972 on Pleasant Street in the town of Bennington in a joint office serving both Bennington and Rutland Counties, and

Whereas, this talent reinvestment mission was met through the recruitment of individuals aged 60 (now aged 55) and older to give back to their communities by working voluntarily in meaningful capacities, and

Whereas, RSVP in Bennington soon became a single county office, and

Whereas, in 2006, when the American Red Cross was sponsoring RSVP in Bennington, the Windsor and Windham counterparts were on the verge of closing, and the three offices were merged under American Red Cross sponsorship to form the new Green Mountain RSVP & Volunteer Center, which has continued to provide RSVP services in all three jurisdictions, and

Whereas, RSVP's most popular initiative is Bone Builders, a free exercise program taught by trained volunteers in 12 classes throughout the county that helps over 200 Bennington County residents fight the effects of osteoporosis, and

Whereas, Green Mountain RSVP volunteers, who number close to 1,000 including nearly 350 in Bennington County, assist "children learning to read, hospital patients, museum goers, elders living alone, veterans, children in the court systems, state park visitors, cancer patients, animal shelter pets," and volunteer in many other situations, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly commemorates the 40th anniversary of the Retired Senior Volunteer Program's establishment in Bennington County, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Green Mountain RSVP & Volunteer Center Executive Director Patricia Palenscar.