

No. R-501. House concurrent resolution honoring the Vermont Elks Association's Silver Towers Camp.

(H.C.R.378)

Offered by: Representatives Dickinson of St. Albans Town, Cupoli of Rutland City, Higley of Lowell, Jewett of Ripton, Koch of Barre Town, Lawrence of Lyndon, Marcotte of Coventry, McFaun of Barre Town, Morrissey of Bennington, Poirier of Barre City, and Winters of Williamstown

Whereas, to the greatest extent possible, persons with disabilities should be afforded the recreational opportunities other Vermonters take for granted, and

Whereas, due to the generosity and commitment of the Vermont Elks, for over 55 years this ideal has been a reality for many campers, and

Whereas, since 1958, Silver Towers Camp, located on 26 beautiful acres in Ripton, has served as the chief charitable project of the Vermont Elks, and, at its 50th anniversary in 2008, held a giant celebration, and

Whereas, Silver Towers Camp is an extraordinary residential camp established for persons with disabilities ages six to 75, and

Whereas, when established, Silver Towers Camp was one of the first residential camps of this type in the nation and even today is one of the few intended solely for campers with disabilities, and

Whereas, the mission of Silver Towers Camp emphasizes respect for each camper and strives to develop talents in campers in an environment that is caring, sharing, and challenging, and

Whereas, to achieve this laudable goal, the camp has a high ratio of counselors to campers, and

Whereas, campers are offered many indoor and outdoor activities tailored to their capabilities and interests, including arts and crafts, bocce, hiking, field games, music, nature programs, dancing, storytelling, and swimming, and

Whereas, among the Elks leadership who have helped ensure the success of the camp are State Trustee of Silver Towers Joseph Montcalm, Camp Director Carolyn Ravenna, and Camp Committee Chair Carl Colburn, and

Whereas, Silver Towers Camp is a wonderful example of how persons with physical and mental disabilities can live fuller and more meaningful lives, and

Whereas, the Vermont Elks can take great pride in this endeavor that brings great joy to the campers, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors the Vermont Elks Association's Silver Towers Camp, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Vermont Elks Silver Towers Camp.