

**No. R-461. House concurrent resolution congratulating Miss Vermont 2017 Erin Connor of Bridport.**

(H.C.R.387)

Offered by: Representatives Smith of New Haven, Baser of Bristol, Conlon of Cornwall, Lanpher of Vergennes, Norris of Shoreham, Scheu of Middlebury, Sharpe of Bristol, and Sheldon of Middlebury

Offered by: Senators Ayer and Bray

Whereas, a successful Miss Vermont contestant must create and implement an education-themed personal platform to be presented during her service year, be a talented performing artist, and an outstanding interviewee, and

Whereas, Erin Connor of Bridport is a young woman who meets these specialized criteria that distinguish serious Miss Vermont aspirants from the stereotypical beauty pageant entrant, and

Whereas, she is a graduate of the University of Vermont who majored in public communications and is employed as a public relations specialist in the lodging industry, and

Whereas, Erin Connor has mastered the challenging intricacies of American Sign Language, certainly a rarity for a Miss Vermont or any Miss America-related contest participant, and, using this specialized form of nonverbal communication, she performed the song “The Greatest Love of All,” and

Whereas, her personal platform was “Tailwinds: Training a New Generation of Women Scientists,” which consisted of a comprehensive classroom presentation designed to teach young girls about career opportunities in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math), with an emphasis on aviation, and

Whereas, Erin Connor’s life epitomizes this theme, as she earned her private pilot’s license in 2013 and since then has been traveling across Vermont promoting the concept of more young girls entering the aviation field, and

Whereas, on April 21, 2017, Erin Connor outscored all of the other competitors and was honored to be crowned as Miss Vermont 2017, and

Whereas, her year of service has entailed more than 150 personal appearances in over 100 communities in all 14 counties, and traveling in excess of 20,000 miles, and

Whereas, a highlight of Erin Connor’s Miss America contest appearance in Atlantic City, New Jersey, was being the contest’s first-ever contestant to fly herself to the event, and she completed this journey wearing high heels, aviators, and her grandfather’s World War II bomber jacket, and

Whereas, Erin Connor has been a truly special Miss Vermont who has brought a new dimension to this title, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates Miss Vermont 2017 Erin Connor of Bridport, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Erin Connor.