

No. R-516. House concurrent resolution congratulating the Rutland Free Library on its 125th anniversary.

(H.C.R.400)

Offered by: Representatives Russell of Rutland City, Andrews of Rutland City, Courcelle of Rutland City, Fagan of Rutland and McNeil of Rutland Town

Offered by: Senators Carris, Flory and Mullin

Whereas, the Rutland Free Library is a community institution of much renown with a collection that has enlightened, entertained, informed, and brought much pleasure to the citizens of Rutland, and

Whereas, the origins of the Rutland Free Library can be traced to a group of over 100 local women who gathered in January 1886 to formulate plans for the establishment of a library association in Rutland, and later that year, the Rutland Free Library was opened in two rented rooms at 23 Merchants Row with a collection of 3,234 books, and

Whereas, in 1889, the library moved to the lower floor of Memorial Hall on West Street, and

Whereas, the role of children in the Rutland Free Library was formally introduced in 1911 with the start of story hours and the establishment of small traveling libraries at schools in Center Rutland and Murray Hill, and

Whereas, in 1930, the Longfellow School became the temporary home of the Rutland Free Library, and in 1935, the library moved to its current home in the former federal building, and

Whereas, additions to the building were constructed in 1964 and again 1988, and in the 1970s, a former courtroom was converted into a community meeting room where cultural programs ranging from music, literary presentations, and public issue forums are now held, and

Whereas, in 1992, the Rutland Free Library became the first Vermont public library to introduce a computerized catalogue, retiring the historic cards, and becoming a pathfinder for other libraries in the state, and

Whereas, in celebration of its 125th anniversary, the Rutland Free Library held a special gala on April 28 with an array of regional authors in attendance, and the Friends of the Rutland Free Library will host its own commemorative event on May 7, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the Rutland Free Library on its 125th anniversary and extends best wishes for continuing success as a cherished bibliographic, community, and information resource, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Rutland Free Library Director Paula Baker.