

**State of Vermont**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Montpelier, Vermont**



**House Resolution**

**H.R. 15**

House resolution commemorating the Battle of the Wilderness

Offered by: Representatives Devereux of Mount Holly, Jerman of Essex, Marek of Newfane, and Branagan of Georgia

Whereas, the Battle of the Wilderness, the first battle of Ulysses Grant's Overland Campaign, was fought 150 years ago, May 5–7, 1864, in an area of northern Virginia known locally as the Wilderness, and

Whereas, the First Vermont Brigade was part of George Washington Getty's Sixth Corps Division of the Army of the Potomac, and

Whereas, Getty's Division at midday on May 5, 1864, was ordered to defend the strategically vital intersection of Brock and Orange Plank roads, and

Whereas, the Vermont Brigade held the left flank of the Division's line which was ordered to advance at 4:00 p.m., and

Whereas, on entering the densely wooded Wilderness, the Brigade, although ripped by heavy Confederate volleys, held its position until darkness, suffering 1,000 casualties, and

Whereas, the Vermont Brigade attacked again on May 6, bringing its two-day casualty total to 1,234, and

Whereas, the intersection of Brock and Orange Plank roads was held, and the Army of the Potomac was able to continue the Overland Campaign that would place a death grip on Petersburg and lead ultimately to a Union Victory in the Civil War, and

Whereas, at the Battle of the Wilderness, Vermont suffered, by far, its greatest number of casualties in a single Civil War battle, and

Whereas, a monument stands on the hallowed ground where the Vermonters fought, a site now preserved as part of The Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park, now therefore be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives:

That this legislative body commemorates the Battle of the Wilderness and the bravery of the Vermonters who fought to defend the Union and defeat slavery, and be it further

Resolved: That this legislative body requests that on May 5, 2014, at 4:00 p.m., bells throughout Vermont be tolled for ten minutes in honor of the First Vermont Brigade's heroic stand at the Wilderness, and be it further

Resolved: That this legislative body requests that a wreath bearing the Freedom and Unity Seal of the State of Vermont be placed at the Vermont Brigade Monument on the Wilderness Battlefield at 4:00 p.m. on May 5, 2014, and be it further

Resolved: That this legislative body requests that its members inform their assembled town meetings of this resolution, and be it further

Resolved: That the Clerk of the House be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Vermont Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission and the Vermont Historical Society.