

No. R-233. Senate concurrent resolution designating October 16, 2017 as John Brown Day in Vermont.

(S.C.R.15)

By Senators Clarkson and McCormack,

Whereas, John Brown was born in 1800 in Torrington, Connecticut, into a Calvinist family, and his religious upbringing was the foundation for his ardent abolitionism during the decades preceding the Civil War, and

Whereas, his abolitionist commitment was further engrained following his 1847 meeting with the abolitionist leader, Frederick Douglass, and

Whereas, in 1849, John Brown demonstrated his solidarity with African Americans when he settled in the black community of North Elba, New York, and

Whereas, there is evidence that John Brown spent time in Cavendish, Vermont, in 1857, working with local abolitionists, and

Whereas, in furtherance of his dream for a state of free blacks in the southern Appalachians, on October 16, 1859, John Brown led a raid, taking hostages and freeing slaves in the process, on the federal armory at Harper's Ferry, Virginia (now West Virginia), and

Whereas, John Brown's raid, which resulted in 17 deaths, ended on October 18 after a contingent of U.S. Marines, under the leadership of U.S. Colonel Robert E. Lee, stormed the armory, resulting in Brown's capture, and

Whereas, following an expedited trial and a verdict of guilty, John Brown was hanged on December 2, 1859, and his widow, accompanying his remains, spent time in Rutland en route to her husband's upstate New York burial, and

Whereas, on the weekend of October 14, 2017, a community group in Woodstock, Vermont, under the leadership of Sonny Saul, Quincy Saul, and Brad Archer is holding a weekend of commemorative events in Woodstock, both to remember the Harper's Ferry Raid as an important event in the fight to end slavery in the United States and to raise awareness and educate the public about all aspects of contemporary racism, and

Whereas, artists, musicians, historians, writers, and representatives from the Vermont chapter of Black Lives Matters and Vermonters for Criminal Justice will be contributing to this weekend of historic and contemporary programs on race relations in the United States, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly designates October 16, 2017 as John Brown Day in Vermont, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Sonny Saul in Woodstock.