

No. R-192. House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2017 Vermont Prudential Spirit of Community Award honorees and distinguished finalists.

(H.C.R.154)

Offered by: Representatives Johnson of South Hero, Joseph of North Hero, Keenan of St. Albans City, McCoy of Poultney, Parent of St. Albans Town, Carr of Brandon, Chesnut-Tangerman of Middletown Springs, Shaw of Pittsford, and Sullivan of Dorset

Offered by: Senators Branagan, Campion, Collamore, Degree, Flory, Mullin, and Sears

Whereas, Prudential Financial and the National Association of Secondary School Principals present the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards to high school and middle school students whose volunteer service is meritorious, and

Whereas, one high school and one middle school student, from each state and the District of Columbia, are recognized as state honorees, earning an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., to compete for national recognition, and two students, one from each school level, are named the jurisdiction's distinguished finalists, and

Whereas, in Vermont, the 2017 high school honoree is Gabrielle Metz of St. Albans, a Bellows Free Academy-St. Albans senior, who serves as a Special Olympics Unified Sports partner, volunteering as a leader, coach, and friend for Special Olympics athletes who compete in five sports, and

Whereas, the 2017 middle school honoree is Riley Callen of Pawlet, an eighth grader at Dorset Elementary School, who founded the Be Brave for Life annual hike-a-thon, which with associated events has raised over \$250,000.00 for research on brain tumors, a condition that has affected her for five years, and

Whereas, the 2017 high school distinguished finalist is Maria Wiles of Brandon, a Middlebury Union High School senior and a Girl Scout, who led a project to construct a learning center in her church hall's basement and a drive that collected 700 books for underserved children, and created a website listing volunteer opportunities for young people, and

Whereas, the 2017 middle school distinguished finalist is Victoria Reed of Alburg, a seventh grader at the Alburg Community Education Center, whose fundraising team Victoria led through a series of events, raising over \$95,000.00 for the University of Vermont Children's Hospital, the medical center that helped her with a series of surgeries after she was born with a cleft lip and palate, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the 2017 Vermont Prudential Spirit of Community Award honorees and distinguished finalists, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to each student honored in this resolution.