

**No. R-225. House concurrent resolution congratulating the town of Bridport on the 250th anniversary of its municipal incorporation.**

(H.C.R.176)

Offered by: Representative Smith of New Haven

Offered by: Senators Ayer and Giard

Whereas, on October 10, 1761, New Hampshire Royal Governor Benning Wentworth issued a charter for a town to be known as Bridport in the future state of Vermont, and

Whereas, among those from Bridport who played a role in the Revolutionary War were Rhoda (Smith) Farrand, who while living in Morrisville, New Jersey, knitted socks for the nearby American fighting soldiers, and Nathan and Marshall Smith, who were captured during British Major Christopher Carleton's 1778 raid along both the New York and Vermont shores of Lake Champlain, and

Whereas, Bridport has had many associations with Lake Champlain, including the continuous presence since 1790 of a United States Coast Guard light at Jones Dock; the operation of ferries between Bridport and Crown Point, New York, from 1795 until 1933; and during the 1800s, the active servicing of canal boats and steamboats from docks located in the town, and

Whereas, the Rev. Lemuel Haynes of West Rutland organized the Bridport Congregational Church in 1790, and

Whereas, in the early 1800s, Samuel Buck operated a potash manufacturing business in Bridport, and

Whereas, a large number of Bridport residents died in the spotted fever epidemic of 1813, and

Whereas, many Bridport residents enlisted in military service during the Civil War, and the Reverend Edgar Harkness Gray of Bridport, chaplain of the U.S. Senate, gave the closing prayer at the funeral of Abraham Lincoln, and

Whereas, the merino ram “Bismarck,” owned by H. C. Burwell of Bridport, took the top prize at the Philadelphia Centennial Exposition in 1876, and

Whereas, Bridport resident Rawson Myrick served as Vermont secretary of state for two decades from 1927 to 1947, and

Whereas, more recently, one of the earliest uses of cow power (the conversion of cow manure to electricity) occurred at the Audet family’s Blue Spruce Farm in Bridport, and

Whereas, the town of Bridport has selected the weekend of June 18–19 to commemorate its 250th anniversary with a pancake breakfast, street dance, fireworks, parade, and other celebratory events, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the town of Bridport on the 250th anniversary of its municipal incorporation, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Bridport town clerk and the Bridport Historical Society.