

**No. R-254. House concurrent resolution designating Saturday, June 2, 2018 as Neighbors Day in Vermont.**

(H.C.R.205)

Offered by: Representatives Houghton of Essex and Giambatista of Essex

Whereas, neighbors are the persons who reside in our immediate vicinity and whom we encounter on a daily basis, and

Whereas, although contact with our neighbors may be frequent, we often remain unacquainted, perhaps not even knowing their names, and

Whereas, Neighbors Day is intended to develop bonds of friendship between neighbors, and

Whereas, the goals of Neighbors Day include: developing a stronger sense of belonging, mutual support, safety, and security in neighborhoods; establishing connections with neighbors that can be helpful in a time of crisis; creating families of choice; and promoting opportunities for enjoyable neighborhood events, and

Whereas, in the late 1990s, an elderly woman died in the 17th arrondissement of Paris, and her body was not discovered for months, and

Whereas, as a result of this tragic occurrence, in 1999, the deputy mayor of the 17th arrondissement, Atanase Périfan, established Neighbors Day on the first Saturday in June with the hope of fostering a sense of belonging and lessening the likelihood of a similar occurrence, and

Whereas, that first year, 10,000 neighbors in Paris participated, and

Whereas, in 2000, the geographic scope of Neighbors Day grew as it was celebrated in 30 French municipalities, and in the ensuing years, the observance has expanded across Europe and eventually to five continents, and

Whereas, by 2017, 30 million persons across the globe participated in Neighbors Day celebrations, including groups of neighbors in Essex Junction, and

Whereas, Neighbors Day events might include neighborhood potlucks, barbecues, pancake breakfasts, picnics, pizza parties, or events not involving food such as the outdoor screening of a film, a book and plant exchange, or a game of whiffle-ball or kickball, and

Whereas, although variations of Neighbors Day exist in the United States, no American jurisdiction has designated it as an official observance, and

Whereas, the camaraderie of the Essex Junction events justifies encouraging Neighbors Day observances throughout Vermont, making our State the first to designate Neighbors Day officially, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly designates Saturday, June 2, 2018 as Neighbors Day in Vermont and urges Vermonters to organize Neighbors Day celebrations.