

No. R-314. House concurrent resolution congratulating the students and staff of Hartford High School on their creation of the High Five mural.

(H.C.R.226)

Offered by: Representatives Bohi of Hartford, Clerkin of Hartford, Adams of Hartland, Mitchell of Barnard and Townsend of Randolph

Offered by: Senators Campbell, McCormack and Nitka

Whereas, in 2009, students and staff at Hartford High School expressed their belief in tolerance for each other through the creation of a colorful mural known as High Five which now adorns the school's cafeteria, and

Whereas, the genesis of the High Five mural was the showing to the Hartford High School student body of the film "Shout It Out" which teaches students the importance of tolerance, diversity, and acceptance in their school community, and

Whereas, after watching the film, students and staff decided to create a mural that celebrates tolerance, and

Whereas, art instructor Andersen (Ann) Thorp, drawing inspiration from a Shaker cookie cutter, proposed a hand with a heart in the middle as the painting's symbol, and

Whereas, social studies teacher Bob Potter described the symbol as a "High Five," an internationally recognized phrase meaning the sharing of emotions of success and strength, and

Whereas, students and staff then began to design the mural with the guidance and assistance of Hartford High School graduate and professional mural painter Caitlin Beilder, and

Whereas, during the summer of 2009, Ann Thorp and Hartford High School counselor Abby Breen assumed the administrative responsibilities associated with this ambitious project, and

Whereas, students and staff brainstormed this past fall to select the images, themes, words, and ideas that the mural would portray, and

Whereas, the High Five mural's realization was financed through the generosity of the Hartford Prevention Coalition, and

Whereas, with the funding, materials, and specific elements in place, Caitlin Beilder developed a sketch, and following conversations between the school community and her, the mural was completed and proudly displayed in the school's cafeteria, and

Whereas, the student participants in this unusual artistic and civic awareness endeavor were Julia Borchert, Taylor Bonini, Amber Boyce, Hannah Chambers, Marley Cooley, Conner Day, Kaitlyn Dodge, Ashley Durand, Colin Elsasser, Rebecca Fogg, Brett Hausler, Travis Herschel, Lee Hobbs, Shea Hurd, Nick Jamrong, Bailey Laflam, Gracie Locke, Garrett Lyon, Molly Mead, Nate Ocker, Kelsey Porter, Emma Seaver, Danielle Simino, Brandon Smith, Brianna Spangler, Jordan Tucker, Patrick Underhill, Sara Vella, and Callie Westenfield, and

Whereas, Hartford High School staff members Byron Baribeau, Jonathan Barth, Abby Breen, Joe Collea, Cindy Edson, Janet Farley, Scott Farnsworth, John Grant, Jennifer Jabareen, Sarah Jacobs, Ellen Langtree, Mike Martel, Bob

Potter, Louis Ryan, Dave Smith, Mark Smith, Lenny Tetrault, Ann Thorp, and Wendy Windsor contributed their talents and time, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the students and staff of Hartford High School on their creation of the High Five mural, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Hartford High School and to Caitlin Beilder.