

No. R-334. House concurrent resolution congratulating GospelFest on its 20th anniversary.

H.C.R.242

Offered by: Representatives Ram of Burlington, Aswad of Burlington, Donovan of Burlington, Head of South Burlington, Larson of Burlington, Lorber of Burlington, Weston of Burlington, Wright of Burlington and Zuckerman of Burlington

Whereas, different variants of gospel music are deeply rooted in the American psyche, and in the African-American community, a very special version is a treasured highlight of its musical heritage, and

Whereas, African-American gospel music is a mixture of call-and-response rhythms that originated with African tribes, and are beautifully blended with Christian biblical stories and liturgical verses, and

Whereas, GospelFest 2010 is a musical extravaganza honoring African-American history and music under the patronage of the New Alpha Missionary Baptist Church, and

Whereas, on Sunday, February 14, the joyous sounds of African-American gospel music will be celebrated in their full sonic glory as GospelFest's 20th anniversary concert takes to the stage at the Flynn Theater, and

Whereas, this year's concert brings together established performers along with those who have more recently discovered the passionate beat of gospel singing, and

Whereas, the music making will include several New Alpha Missionary Baptist Church's choruses, including the Adult Gospel Choir, Children's Gospel Choir, and Men's Chorus, and

Whereas, a highlight on the concert's musical menu is the Burlington Ecumenical Gospel Choir which will enchant the audience with its own enthusiastic renditions of gospel favorites, and

Whereas, the Burlington Ecumenical Gospel Choir is a vibrant vocal ensemble whose 100-plus singing membership is culturally diverse and religiously multid denominational, and

Whereas, 2010 marks GospelFest's 20th anniversary, and a legislative resolution commemorating this wonderful event is in order, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates GospelFest on its 20th anniversary, and extends best wishes for many future years of presenting Vermonters with inspiring gospel music, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to GospelFest Chairperson Wanda Heading-Grant and to the New Alpha Missionary Baptist Church.