

No. R-368. House concurrent resolution recognizing March as Meals on Wheels Month in Vermont.

(H.C.R.281)

Offered by: Representatives Sharpe of Bristol, Bartholomew of Hartland, Bissonnette of Winooski, Botzow of Pownal, Briglin of Thetford, Browning of Arlington, Carr of Brandon, Cole of Burlington, Dakin of Chester, Deen of Westminster, Evans of Essex, Forguites of Springfield, French of Randolph, Head of South Burlington, Hooper of Montpelier, Jerman of Essex, Jewett of Ripton, Johnson of South Hero, Keenan of St. Albans City, Krebs of South Hero, Krowinski of Burlington, LaLonde of South Burlington, Lanpher of Vergennes, Lenes of Shelburne, Lippert of Hinesburg, Long of Newfane, Lucke of Hartford, Macaig of Williston, Martin of Wolcott, Masland of Thetford, McCormack of Burlington, McCullough of Williston, Mrowicki of Putney, Murphy of Fairfax, Nuovo of Middlebury, Olsen of Londonderry, O'Sullivan of Burlington, Partridge of Windham, Pugh of South Burlington, Rachelson of Burlington, Sheldon of Middlebury, Sibia of Dover, Stevens of Waterbury, Stuart of Brattleboro, Sweaney of Windsor, Till of Jericho, Townsend of South Burlington, Trieber of Rockingham, Troiano of Stannard, Walz of Barre City, Webb of Shelburne, Wood of Waterbury, Woodward of Johnson, Yantachka of Charlotte, and Zagar of Barnard

Whereas, Meals on Wheels provides nutritious meals and a friendly visit from a volunteer to isolated seniors, and

Whereas, Meals on Wheels America (a national support organization) commissioned a Brown University study that found meal recipients, or those who request meals, are vulnerable seniors and that the delivered hot meals improve the quality of the seniors' health, and they become less worried at the prospect of living alone, and

Whereas, the study documented that the participating seniors benefit socially, as well as nutritionally, from participating in this program, and

Whereas, in Vermont, the Champlain Valley Agency on Aging (CVAA), serving Chittenden, Addison, Grand Isle, and Franklin Counties, is an umbrella organization for Meals on Wheels and provides over 300,000 meals annually, and

Whereas, Meals on Wheels' importance in Vermont is apparent, as 40,000 seniors are isolated, and hunger is a threat for over 17,000 seniors, and

Whereas, for the 14th consecutive year, CVAA is participating in the March for Meals national campaign that is designed to increase awareness of the Meals on Wheels program, and

Whereas, CVAA's 2016 March for Meals kickoff event is being held on March 2 at the Switchback Brewing Company in Burlington, and

Whereas, throughout March, CVAA and other Meals on Wheels programs, in Vermont and nationwide, will be reaching out in local communities "to establish a network that will enable them to serve America's seniors all year long," and

Whereas, Meals on Wheels is an outstanding program that brings nourishment, companionship, and improved health to many older Vermonters, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly designates March as Meals on Wheels Month in Vermont, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Champlain Valley Agency on Aging.