

No. R-38. Joint resolution supporting the return of the Battle of Winchester Memorial to its original battlefield location.

(J.R.S.12)

By Committee on Institutions,

Whereas, Vermont Civil War troops were key to the important Union victory at the Third Battle of Winchester fought at Winchester, Virginia on September 19, 1864, and

Whereas, the Third Battle of Winchester was the first major battle of the campaign that resulted in Union control of the Shenandoah Valley, and

Whereas, Colonel Stephen Thomas told his Eighth Vermont Regiment to “remember Ethan Allen and Old Vermont” as he ordered the bayonet charge so important to victory at Winchester, and

Whereas, on September 19, 1885, the 21st anniversary of the battle, veterans of the Eighth Vermont Regiment dedicated a monument, which Herbert Hill constructed on the Winchester battlefield, overlooking the scene of the bayonet charge, and

Whereas, Virginians joined the Vermont veterans in the celebration at the dedication, and

Whereas, the General Assembly, in a resolution adopted in 1886, praised the “kindly spirit in which the inhabitants of the Shenandoah Valley received the citizens of this State, September 19, 1885,” and

Whereas, subsequently, the Eighth Vermont Monument was removed from the battlefield to the Winchester National Cemetery, and

Whereas, with the approach of the Battle of Winchester’s 150th anniversary, the General Assembly wishes to return the Eighth Vermont Monument to the battlefield at a site as close as possible to the original location where our veterans of the battle had placed it, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the Vermont General Assembly respectfully asks the Vermont Congressional Delegation, the National Park Service, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the Civil War Trust, and the City of Winchester, Virginia to facilitate the return of the Eighth Vermont Monument to the hallowed ground of the Winchester battlefield in a timely fashion to enable the rededication of the monument to occur on the battle’s 150th anniversary, September 19, 2014, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to National Park Service Director Jon Jarvis, U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric Shinseki, the Civil War Trust in Washington, D.C., Winchester, Virginia City Manager Dale Iman, and the Vermont Congressional Delegation.