

No. R-117. Senate concurrent resolution designating Friday, March 24, 2017 as Northeast Kingdom Day in Vermont.

(S.C.R.10)

By Senators Kitchel, Benning, Rodgers, Starr, and Westman,

By Representatives Beck of St. Johnsbury, Conquest of Newbury, Feltus of Lyndon, Higley of Lowell, Lawrence of Lyndon, Lefebvre of Newark, Marcotte of Coventry, Martel of Waterford, Quimby of Concord, Smith of Derby, Strong of Albany, Toll of Danville, Troiano of Stannard, Viens of Newport City, Willhoit of St. Johnsbury, and Young of Glover,

Whereas, the three most northeasterly Vermont counties—Caledonia, Essex, and Orleans—represent a distinctive region of the Green Mountain State, and their extensive forest tracts, mountain vistas, enduring dairy farms and cropland, thriving maple sugaring operations, and small towns that have remained scenic and pastoral into the 21st century, and

Whereas, referring to the region as the Northeast Kingdom was a practice that prominent Lyndon resident W. Arthur Simpson and Newport newspaper publisher Wallace Gilpin popularized in the 1940s, and

Whereas, this regionally descriptive phrase received its official seal of approval when, on March 24, 1949, U.S. Senator George Aiken incorporated it into a speech at the Darling Inn of Lyndonville delivered to a newly established tri-county development commission, and

Whereas, some of Vermont's and New England's best outdoor recreational opportunities are found in abundance among its majestic mountains and lakes, within its State parks, in the Nulhegan Basin Division of the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge, and in the more than 100,000 acres of the Kingdom Heritage Lands, and

Whereas, the Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium in St. Johnsbury hosts the state-of-the-art Lyman Spitzer Jr. Planetarium and is also the home of one of the nation's oldest private weather observation services, and

Whereas, historic educational institutions include the Old Stone House in Brownington, part of the county's first high school in 1823, and the Concord Normal School that became the nation's first public school teacher training institute; and in 2017, there are the prestigious Lyndon Institute and St. Johnsbury Academy, Lyndon College, known for its electronic journalism and meteorology programs, and Sterling College in Craftsbury Common where ecology and environmental humanities courses are offered, and

Whereas, the Haskell Free Library and Opera House, located in Derby Line and Stanstead, Quebec, is a unique border-straddling cultural institution, and

Whereas, musically, the Northeast Kingdom boasts superb community bands, including the historic St. Johnsbury Band and the Lyndonville Military Band, the classical Craftsbury Players, and local ensembles of all genres, and

Whereas, the Northeast Kingdom has much to celebrate, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly designates March 24, 2017 as Northeast Kingdom Day in Vermont, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Northeast Kingdom Chamber of Commerce.