

No. R-238. House concurrent resolution commemorating the 250th anniversary of the town of Tunbridge.

(H.C.R.189)

Offered by: Representative Buxton of Royalton

Whereas, although never formally documented, the town of Tunbridge was possibly named for the English Viscount Tunbridge of Tunbridge, and

Whereas, on September 3, 1761, Governor Benning Wentworth of New Hampshire granted a charter to a group of 65 proprietors or grantees for a six-square-mile parcel to be known as the town of Tunbridge, and

Whereas, the charter directed that Ebenezer Fletcher, an innkeeper in Salisbury, Connecticut, organize the grantees at a meeting on the fourth Tuesday of that same month, and

Whereas, the first settlers arrived in Tunbridge at the start of the American Revolution, and on October 16, 1780, a vicious attack led by a British officer in command of approximately 300 Indians severely damaged the small settlement and surrounding communities, and

Whereas, Tunbridge showed great resilience, and the earliest document in the town hall is a December 15, 1782 call for a proprietors' meeting to be held on May 28, 1783, and a town meeting was held the next month, and

Whereas, once disputed boundaries were settled, the town was finally and officially organized on March 21, 1786, and the first meeting house was completed in 1797, and

Whereas, also in 1797, Tunbridge was organized into 11 school districts that were not completely consolidated until 1955, and

Whereas, Tunbridge residents took advantage of easily accessible water power, constructing dams, small mills, and foundries to serve commercial manufacturing activity, although the town is predominantly agricultural, and

Whereas, in 1867, the Union Agricultural Society established the Tunbridge World's Fair in North Tunbridge, and since 1875, it has been held at the present site in central Tunbridge, and

Whereas, in celebration of its 250th birthday, Tunbridge is ringing its three church bells 250 times each, issuing a commemorative cookbook and DVD, holding art and historical exhibits, hosting a Tunbridge appreciation picnic at which a photo of townspeople will be taken, and holding other events including a variety show, a concert, a dance, and hikes, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly commemorates the 250th anniversary of the town of Tunbridge, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Tunbridge town clerk and to Tunbridge Historical Society President Euclid Farnham.