

**No. R-465. House concurrent resolution congratulating Circus Smirkus on its 25th anniversary.**

(H.C.R.358)

Offered by: Representatives Ancel of Calais, Browning of Arlington, Buxton of Tunbridge, Christie of Hartford, Clarkson of Woodstock, Condon of Colchester, Conquest of Newbury, Copeland-Hanzas of Bradford, Dakin of Chester, Deen of Westminster, Dickinson of St. Albans Town, Donovan of Burlington, Ellis of Waterbury, Emmons of Springfield, French of Shrewsbury, French of Randolph, Gilbert of Fairfax, Greshin of Warren, Head of South Burlington, Hooper of Montpelier, Jewett of Ripton, Johnson of South Hero, Kitzmiller of Montpelier, Klein of East Montpelier, Krowinski of Burlington, Kupersmith of South Burlington, Lorber of Burlington, Malcolm of Pawlet, Martin of Springfield, Masland of Thetford, McCullough of Williston, Mrowicki of Putney, Peltz of Woodbury, Ralston of Middlebury, Ram of Burlington, Russell of Rutland City, Shand of Weathersfield, South of St. Johnsbury, Stevens of Waterbury, Strong of Albany, Taylor of Barre City, Till of Jericho, Trieber of Rockingham, Webb of Shelburne, Wilson of Manchester, Wizowaty of Burlington and Young of Glover

Whereas, at the former Richardson Farm in Greensboro there lies a field where in 1987 Circus Smirkus, an unusual school and center of the circus arts, was created, and the name is reflective of the frivolity performed inside a tent with multiple colored pennants adorning the top of its exterior, and

Whereas, this fun-filled organization is an international prize-winning enterprise that each summer attracts aspiring circus performers 10 to 18 years of age for exhaustive instruction from top American and international performers and coaches, and

Whereas, 30 of the youngsters are selected to join the adventure of a 70-show tour through the northeastern United States, staged in a 750-seat performance tent, keeping the 200-year tradition of the traveling circus alive

and thriving, and, despite unforeseen events, no scheduled performance has ever been canceled, and

Whereas, for the most dedicated and talented of the young troupers, Circus Smirkus tours are no mere summer frolic, as 15 percent of the performers will continue on to professional circus careers, and visits from scouts representing Cirque du Soleil and major European circuses provide a special audition opportunity, and

Whereas, Circus Smirkus has traveled to the International Children's Festival in Vienna, Virginia, across the Atlantic to Sweden, Russia, and the Ukraine, and the organization is now working with the National Circus School of Cuba in anticipation of an artistic cultural exchange, and

Whereas, a special performer was the late renowned mime Marcel Marceau, who broke his traditional silence to speak from under the big top on behalf of Circus Smirkus, and

Whereas, Circus Smirkus has provided the center ring for nonprofit fundraising totaling \$2.5 million, and

Whereas, thousands of persons have watched Circus Smirkus in action in the Disney Channel series *Totally Circus*, a new award-winning film, *Circus Dreams*, will be broadcast on PBS, and many articles have been written about the circus, and

Whereas, tomorrow, Saturday, April 21, 2012, circus fans around the globe will celebrate the third World Circus Day, and this observance is a fitting

occasion to commemorate the 25th anniversary of Circus Smirkus, now  
therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates Circus Smirkus on its 25th  
anniversary, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this  
resolution to Circus Smirkus in Greensboro.