

I am proud of the people of Franklin County for their creativity and ingenuity in meeting the needs of families and children. They serve as an inspiring example to other communities in Vermont, and indeed, the entire country.●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:11 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1264. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require that each employer show on the W-2 form of each employee the employer's share of taxes for old-age, survivors, and disability insurance and for hospital insurance for the employee as well as the total amount of such taxes for such employee.

H.R. 2909. An act to provide for implementation by the United States of the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2961. An act to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to authorize a 3-year pilot program under which the Attorney General may extend the period for voluntary departure in the care of certain non-immigrant aliens who require medical treatment in the United States and were admitted under the visa waiver pilot program, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3113. An act to protect individuals, families, and Internet service providers from unsolicited and unwanted electronic mail.

H.R. 4157. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 600 Lincoln Avenue in Pasadena, California, as the "Matthew 'Mack' Robinson Post Office Building."

H.R. 4430. An act to redesignate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 8926 Baltimore Street in Savage, Maryland, as the "Alfred Rascon Post Office Building."

H.R. 4517. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 24 Tsienneto Road in Derry, New Hampshire, as the "Alan B. Shepard, Jr. Post Office Building."

H.R. 4554. An act to redesignate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1602 Frankford Avenue in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, as the "Joseph F. Smith Post Office Building."

H.R. 4866. An act to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 103(b)(1) of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2001 to reduce the public debt and to decrease the statutory limit on the public debt.

The message also announced that the House agrees to the report of the Committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 4576) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House disagrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 4810) to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 103(a)(1) of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2001; and appoints Mr. ARCHER, Mr. ARMEY, and Mr. RANGEL, as the man-

agers of the conference on the part of the House.

At 5:23 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to the following resolution:

H. Res. 558. Resolution relative to the death of the Honorable PAUL COVERDELL, a Senator from the State of Georgia.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 2961. An act to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to authorize a 3-year pilot program under which the Attorney General may extend the period for voluntary departure in the case of certain non-immigrant aliens who require medical treatment in the United States and were admitted under the visa waiver pilot program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 3113. An act to protect individuals, families, and Internet service providers from unsolicited and unwanted electronic mail; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 4157. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 600 Lincoln Avenue in Pasadena, California, as the "Matthew 'Mack' Robinson Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 4430. An act to redesignate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 8926 Baltimore Street in Savage, Maryland, as the "Alfred Rascon Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 4517. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 24 Tsienneto Road in Derry, New Hampshire, as the "Alan B. Shepard, Jr. Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 4554. An act to redesignate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1602 Frankford Avenue in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, as the "Joseph F. Smith Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 4866. An act to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 103(b)(1) of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2001 to reduce the public debt and to decrease the statutory limit on the public debt; to the Committee on Finance.

MEASURE REFERRED

The following bill, received previously from the House of Representatives for concurrence, was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated, on July 18, 2000:

H.R. 3084. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to contribute funds for the establishment of an interpretative center on the life and contributions of President Abraham Lincoln; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following concurrent resolution was read, and placed on the calendar on July 18, 2000.

H. Con. Res. 319. Concurrent resolution congratulating the Republic of Latvia on the 10th anniversary of the reestablishment of its independence from the rule of the former Soviet Union.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR ON JULY 19, 2000

The following bill was read the first and second time by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 2909. An act to provide for implementation by the United States of the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-9793. A communication from the Secretary of the Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report regarding the fair Debt Collection Practices Act; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-9794. A communication from the General Counsel of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Flood Elevation Determinations 65 FR 35587" received on June 21, 2000; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-9795. A communication from the General Counsel of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Changed in Flood Elevation Determinations 65 FR 36069" received on June 21, 2000; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-9796. A communication from the General Counsel of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Flood Elevation Determination 65 FR 36072" received on June 21, 2000; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-9797. A communication from the General Counsel of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Changes in Flood Elevation Determinations 65 FR 36068" received on June 21, 2000; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-9798. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulations, Office of the Secretary, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Debarment, Suspension, and Limited Denial of Participation: Clarification of Procedures" (RIN2501-AC61 (FR-4505-F01)) received on June 21, 2000; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-9799. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulations, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Section Management Assessment Program (SEMAP); Lifting of Stay of Certain Regulatory Sections" (RIN2577-AB60 (FR-3986-N-03)) received on June 21, 2000; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-9800. A communication from the General Counsel of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Changes in

Flood Elevation Determinations 65 FR 36070" (Docket No. FEMA-7324) received on June 21, 2000; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-9801. A communication from the Managing Director of the Federal Housing Finance Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Office of Finance; Authority of the Federal Home Loan Banks to Issue Consolidated Obligations" (RIN 3069-AA88) received on June 21, 2000; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-9802. A communication from the Fiscal Assistant Secretary of the Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report concerning the government securities brokers and dealers for calendar year 1999; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-9803. A communication from the Chairman and President of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to exports to the Philippines; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-9804. A communication from the Deputy Secretary, Division of Investment Management, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Privacy of Consumer Financial Information (Regulation S-P)" (RIN3235-AH90) received on June 23, 2000; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-9805. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison Officer of the Office of Thrift Supervision, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Repurchases of Stock by Recently Converted Saving Associations, Mutual Holding Company Dividend Waivers, Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act Changes" (RIN1550-AB24) received on June 26, 2000; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-9806. A communication from the President and Chairman of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report regarding exports to Colombia; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-9807. A communication from the General Counsel of the National Credit Union Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "12 CFR Part 716, Privacy of Consumer Financial Information" received on June 29, 2000; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-9808. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to the Export Administration Regulations: Implementation of the Wassenaar Arrangement List of Dual Use Items: Revisions to Categories 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 9 of the Commerce Control List" (RIN0694-AC19) received on June 30, 2000; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-9809. A communication from the Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report relative of the Securities Investor Protection Corporation for calendar year 1999; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-9810. A communication from the Secretary of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report addressing the challenges of international bribery and fair competition; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-9811. A communication from the Chairman of the Federal Housing Finance Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the 1999 man-

agement reports of the twelve Federal Home Loan Banks and the Financing Corporation; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-9812. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulations, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Pet Ownership in Public Housing" (RIN2577-AB94 (FR-4437-F-02)) received on July 10, 2000; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-9813. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulations, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Direct Funding of Public Housing Resident Management Corporations" (RIN2577-AC12 (FR-4501-F-02)) received on July 10, 2000; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-9814. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulations, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program: Expansion of Payment Standard Protection" (RIN2577-AC18 (FR-4586-I-01)) received on July 10, 2000; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-9815. A communication from the General Counsel of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Flood Elevation Determinations 65 FR 38429" received July 10, 2000; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-9816. A communication from the General Counsel of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Inspection of Insured Structures by Communities 65 FR 39726" (RIN3067-AC70) received July 10, 2000; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-9817. A communication from the Comptroller of the Currency, Administrator of National Banks, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of four issues of the Quarterly Journal (the annual report for 1999); to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-9818. A communication from the Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report for fiscal year 1999; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-9819. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Parties to a Transaction and their Responsibilities, Routed Export Transactions, Shipper's Export Declarations, the Automated Export System (AES), and Export Clearance" (RIN0694-AB88) received on June 30, 2000; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-9820. A communication from the General Counsel of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP): Assistance to Private Sector Property Insurers 65 FR 36633" (RIN3067-AD11) received on June 30, 2000; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-9821. A communication from the General Counsel of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, transmitting, pursuant to

law, the report of a rule entitled "Changes in Flood Elevation Determinations 65 FR 36634" (Docket No. FEMA-7313) received on June 30, 2000; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-9822. A communication from the Legislative and Regulatory Activities Division, Comptroller of the Currency, Administrator of National Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of the final rule entitled "Other Equity Investments" received on July 5, 2000; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-9823. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the notice of the continuation of emergency with respect to the Taliban; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-9824. A communication from the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation to amend the Housing Act of 1949 to increase the guarantee fee on guaranteed loans; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-9825. A communication from the General Counsel of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Suspension of Community Eligibility 65 FR 30545" (Docket No. FEMA-7735) received on July 12, 2000; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-9826. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Coastal Ocean Program Supplemental Notice of Funds Availability for the Southeast Bering Sea Carrying Capacity (SEBSCC) Project" (RIN0648-ZA86) received on May 16, 2000; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-9827. A communication from the Chairman of the Interagency Coordination Committee on Oil Pollution Research, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report relative to oil spill pollution research; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-9828. A communication from the Acting Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries off West Coast States and in the Western Pacific; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; Temporary Closure For the Shore-based Sector" received on June 21, 2000; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-9829. A communication from the Acting Director of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries off West Coast States and in the Western Pacific; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; Whiting Closure for the Mothership Sector" received on June 21, 2000; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-9830. A communication from the Acting Assistant Director of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Rebuilding Overfished Fisheries" (RIN0648-AM29) received on June 21, 2000; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-9831. A communication from the Chief of the Marine Mammal Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Regulations Governing the Taking and Importing of

Marine Mammal; Endangered and Threatened Fish and Wildlife; Cook Inlet Beluga Whales" (RIN0648-XA53) received on June 21, 2000; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-9832. A communication from the Associate Administrator for Procurement, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Miscellaneous Administrative Revisions to the NASA FAR Supplement" received on June 21, 2000; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-9833. A communication from the Program Analyst of the Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives: Airbus Model A319, A320, and A321 Series Airplanes; docket No. 99-NM-351 [6-19/6-22]" (RIN2120-AA64 (2000-0340)) received on June 22, 2000; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-599. A resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Alaska relative to the Exxon Mobil Corporation; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

POM-600. A resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Alaska relative to fair trade between the United States and Canada; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

POM-601. A petition from the Native Hawaiian Convention concerning the reestablishment of a Native Hawaiian Nation; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

POM-602. A resolution adopted by the House of the Legislature of the State of Illinois relative to industrial hemp; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 553

Whereas, Industrial hemp refers to varieties of the cannabis plant that have a low content of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) and that are cultivated for fiber and oil; and

Whereas, Industrial hemp should not be confused with varieties of cannabis that have high content of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) and that are commonly referred to as marijuana; and

Whereas, The commercial production and cultivation of industrial hemp is now permitted in Canada, under licenses and authorizations issued by Health Canada; and

Whereas, Health Canada controls, through rules, all activities relating to the importation, exportation, possession, production, sale, provision, transportation, sending, delivering, and offering for sale of industrial hemp; and

Whereas, Industrial hemp is grown legally throughout Europe and Asia; and

Whereas, Many farmers facing uncertain times in the agricultural marketplace view the reintroduction of industrial hemp as another potentially alternative crop that will have long-term economic benefits to the farmers who produce hemp and the persons who use hemp in the production of textiles, paper products, concrete reinforcement, automobile parts, plastic, cosmetics, organic foods, and natural body products; and

Whereas, Congress never originally intended to prohibit the production of industrial hemp when restricting the production, possession, and use of marijuana; therefore be it

Resolved, by the House of Representatives of the Ninety-First General Assembly of the State

of Illinois, That we urge the United States Congress to acknowledge the difference between the hallucinogenic drug known as marijuana and the agricultural crop known as industrial hemp; to acknowledge that allowing and encouraging farmers to produce industrial hemp will improve the balance of trade by promoting domestic sources of industrial hemp; and to assist United States' producers by clearly authorizing the commercial production of industrial hemp and by being the leading advocate for the industrial hemp industry; and be it further

Resolved, That suitable copies of this resolution be delivered to the President pro tempore of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the chairmen of the Agriculture Committees of the United States Senate and House of Representatives, the United States Secretary of Agriculture, and each member of the Illinois congressional delegation.

POM-603. A resolution adopted by the House of the Legislature of the State of Louisiana relative to the preservation of liberty; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 33

Whereas, the Preamble to the Constitution of the United States of America, which became effective on March 4, 1789, declares that the people of the United States have established that constitution with the stated purposes of forming a more perfect union, establishing justice, insuring domestic tranquility, providing for the common defense, promoting the general welfare, and securing the blessings of liberty; and

Whereas, the Fourth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America, which became effective on December 15, 1791, provides, in part, that "the right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated . . ."; and

Whereas, on November 19, 1863, in his Address of Gettysburg, President Abraham Lincoln noted that our nation was conceived in liberty and spoke of the need for those who heard his words to resolve ". . . that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom; and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth"; and

Whereas, these noble and lofty ideals, upon which our nation was founded and preserved, of liberty and government for the people, appear to be in danger as the echoes of the increasing raids against the citizens of our country, the latest of which was in Miami, reverberate across our land; and

Whereas, our nation must always be prepared to do the things which are necessary to preserve our liberty, but in preserving the liberty of the nation, the rights of the individuals must also be preserved; and

Whereas, certain actions by certain agents of our federal government have risen to an unhealthy fear of our government among the citizens of our nation; and

Whereas, the United States Congress should take the lead in preserving the liberties of our nation as a whole and the liberties of the individual citizens of our nation: Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Louisiana House of Representatives does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to take such steps as are necessary to preserve the liberties of our nation as a whole and the liberties of the individual citizens of our nation; be it further

Resolved, That copies of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the presiding officer of each house of the United States Congress and to each member of the Louisiana delegation of the United States Congress.

POM-604. A resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey relative to the Voting Rights Act of 1965; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION NO. 90

Whereas, On August 6, 1965, United States President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the federal Voting Rights Act (VRA) into law; and

Whereas, The purpose of this landmark legislation was to ensure that the voting rights of African-American citizens, as guaranteed by the Fourteenth and Fifteenth amendments, to the United States Constitution, are preserved and strongly enforced; and

Whereas, Prior to the passage of the VRA, many areas of the United States were in the grip of oppressive state laws that purposely hindered and abridged the right of African-Americans to register and vote by imposing demeaning tests and devices that kept them away from the polls on election day and permitted white voters to have control over the electoral process and the candidates for elective office; and

Whereas, For example, before the passage of the VRA, only 29 percent of African-Americans were registered to vote in Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia compared over 73.4 percent of whites, and within two years after the passage of the law, more than 52 percent of African Americans were registered to vote in those states; and

Whereas, When the VRA was adopted, Section 4 of the law abolished literacy tests and all other similar devices used to discriminate against minority voters; and

Whereas, Section 5 of the law was designed to ensure that minority voters would have the opportunity to register to vote and fully participate in this county's electoral process free of discrimination; and

Whereas, Section 5 mandated that any change in election law in states that had a history of electoral discrimination—including something as small as moving a polling place—must be precleared, either through the federal Department of Justice or through the federal district court in the District of Columbia, to ensure that the change did not abridge minority voting rights; and

Whereas, In the wake of the passage of the VRA, the federal Department of Justice has used it to stop or remove a large number of the discriminatory practices that diluted the voting strength of African-Americans or prevented them from achieving electoral victories; and

Whereas, These practice include racial gerrymandering—drawing Congressional or legislative district boundaries with race as the primary consideration—and the use of at-large elections in counties and municipalities, whereby representatives are elected from the political subdivision as a whole, instead of from districts within it, so that a majority of white voters always defeat African-Americans candidates; and

Whereas, New Jersey has long had an interest in ensuring that African-Americans are permitted to exercise their constitutionally-guaranteed right to vote, as evidenced by the honor given to Thomas Mundy Peterson of Perth Amboy, the first African-American to vote in the United States after the passage of the Fifteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution in March 1870; and

Whereas, Given that the civil rights community believes that the VRA has allowed African-Americans in this country to fully exercise their right to vote and have an important role in this country's democratic process, it is fitting and proper for this State to acknowledge the year 2000 as the 35th anniversary of the VRA; now, therefore be it

Resolved by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey: