

State of Vermont House of Representatives

Montpelier, Vermont



Joint House Resolution

J.R.H. 28

Joint resolution supporting the posthumous awarding of the Congressional Medal of Honor to Civil War Brigadier General George Jerrison Stannard

Offered by: Representatives Turner of Milton, Hubert of Milton, Johnson of South Hero, Krebs of South Hero, Devereux of Mount Holly, Branagan of Georgia, Jerman of Essex, and Troiano of Stannard

Whereas, Civil War Brigadier General George Jerrison Stannard, a native of Georgia, Vermont, commanded the Second Vermont Brigade, and

Whereas, the Second Vermont Brigade (Stannard's Brigade), untested in battle, reached Gettysburg on July 1, 1863 at the end of the first day's fighting, and

Whereas, Stannard's Brigade fought ably late on the battle's second day, helping to stabilize the threatened Union line, and earning it a place at the front of the Union line on Cemetery Ridge, and

Whereas, on the battle's final day, in perhaps the most memorable Confederate maneuver of the Civil War that became known as Pickett's Charge, the Confederate troops approached the Union line, but they suddenly shifted their direction northward, leaving no enemy troops in front of the Vermonters, and

Whereas, General Stannard recognized this unexpected opportunity and ordered the Brigade's 13th and 16th regiments to "change front forward on first company," sending 900 Vermonters in a great wheeling motion to the front of the Union lines, and

Whereas, Stannard's men hit the exposed right flank of Pickett's Charge in an attack the Confederates did not expect, inflicting hundreds of casualties, and

Whereas, Major Abner Doubleday, commanding the Army of the Potomac's I Corps, in which the Vermonters served, commented that General Stannard's strategy helped to ensure, if not guarantee, the Union's victory at Gettysburg, and

Whereas, Confederate General Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia was dealt a blow from which it never fully recovered, and

Whereas, General George Stannard was severely wounded three times during the Civil War: while commanding Vermont regiments at Gettysburg, at Cold Harbor in the Union attack on June 10, 1864, and at Fort Harrison on September 30, 1864 where he lost an arm during hostilities, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly supports, based on his illustrious record of military leadership, the posthumous awarding of the Congressional Medal of Honor to Civil War Brigadier General George Jerrison Stannard, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Vermont Congressional Delegation and the George Stannard House Committee in Milton.