

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD

TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-FOUR

**JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING APRIL 18, 2024 AS WORLD
AMATEUR RADIO DAY**

WHEREAS, amateur radio provides a bridge between people, societies and countries by creating friendships and sharing ideas; and

WHEREAS, on April 18, 1925, the International Amateur Radio Union was founded, which illustrates how international cooperation and communication are hallmarks of amateur radio; and

WHEREAS, there are more than 2,500,000 amateur radio operators worldwide, with nearly 780,000 in the United States and approximately 4,500 in the State of Maine; and

WHEREAS, amateur radio provides an excellent opportunity for leadership development, technical innovation and scientific exploration; and

WHEREAS, showing that there is no age barrier in amateur radio, at 9 years of age Simon Golob of Sabattus earned his amateur radio license in 2023 and in the last year has been learning Morse code, has served as a Net Control Station for a public service radio net in the State, participated in a disaster communications exercise and made contacts with amateur radio operators in Europe, Oceania and South America; and

WHEREAS, amateur radio is a licensed service for noncommercial use and, during emergencies or natural disasters, such as the ice storm of 1998, Hurricane Katrina, the Boston Marathon bombing and countless other emergency situations, is often the only dependable way to communicate locally or internationally; and

WHEREAS, many Maine amateur radio operators serve their local and county emergency management agencies by training and holding exercises to prepare for when their skills are needed during times of emergency; and

WHEREAS, during Tropical Storm Lee in September 2023, amateur radio was used to transmit messages from the Emergency Operations Center in Machias to the Maine Emergency Management Agency in Augusta; and

WHEREAS, Maine amateur radio operators routinely volunteer their equipment and time to provide public service communications for such events as the Dempsey Challenge, the Trek Across Maine, the TD Beach to Beacon 10K Road Race, the New England Forest Rally, the Kenduskeag Stream Canoe Race, the Can Am Crown International Sled Dog Race, the Loon Echo Bike Trek, the Mount Desert Island Marathon, BikeMaine, the Sugarloaf Marathon and the Northwoods Gravel Grind; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirty-first Legislature now assembled in the Second Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to recognize and acknowledge the accomplishments and public service provided by amateur radio operators as they celebrate World Amateur Radio Day on the 99th anniversary of the founding of the International Amateur Radio Union; and be it further

RESOLVED: That suitable copies of this resolution, duly authenticated by the Secretary of State, be transmitted to the American Radio Relay League and the International Amateur Radio Union.