

2019 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 58

BY REPRESENTATIVE JIMMY HARRIS

COMMENDATIONS: Commends the International Association of Fire Fighters for more than one hundred years of service

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend the International Association of Fire Fighters for more than one hundred years
3 of service.

4 WHEREAS, the International Association of Fire Fighters, or IAFF, was founded in
5 Washington, D.C., on February 26, 1918, when thirty-six delegates representing twenty-four
6 local organizations met at its first convention; and

7 WHEREAS, the IAFF was organized to meet the needs of the emerging professional
8 firefighter; and

9 WHEREAS, at the moment of the IAFF's inception, fire protection services were
10 haphazard and firefighters were often endangered by the lack of safety equipment and
11 operational standards and usually received little or no compensation; and

12 WHEREAS, before the organization existed, a firefighter would often work twenty-
13 four hour shifts in which he was expected to be on continuous duty and would receive very
14 low wages for his services; and

15 WHEREAS, as a corrective to this state of affairs, the IAFF helped to improve
16 working conditions for firefighters and assisted in the process by which firefighters received
17 substantial benefits and better wages; and

18 WHEREAS, the IAFF created the Fire Fighters Fund to provide financial assistance
19 to the children of fallen firefighters; and

20 WHEREAS, during the Great Depression of the 1930s, fire fighting became a more
21 dependable form of employment, and the profession benefitted from improvements in safety

1 technology, including two-way radio communications, breathing equipment, and lifesaving
2 devices; and

3 WHEREAS, in 1934, the IAFF was recognized by the National Fire Protection
4 Association, the United States Department of Agriculture, and other national organizations
5 for its crucial role in the reduction of fire hazards, in the education of the public, and in fire
6 safety research; and

7 WHEREAS, when the United States entered into World War II, IAFF firefighters
8 answered the call to military service in all branches of the armed forces; and

9 WHEREAS, in the December 1941 issue of *Fire Fighter* magazine, the IAFF
10 declared to its members that "The firefighters of the Nation, in particular, have a distinct
11 service to perform. Already well-organized, trained, and accustomed to discipline and the
12 orderly performance of their duties under any and all conditions, and with complete
13 disregard of any personal danger, firefighters may be expected to set an example for their
14 fellow citizens in the trying days that lie ahead"; and

15 WHEREAS, during World War II, the IAFF assisted in the coordination of its
16 members to ensure that firefighters were available to serve both at home and in combat, and
17 when firefighters returned home after their tours of duty, the IAFF worked to ensure that
18 able-bodied members would return to their firehouses to continue their employment and that
19 disabled firefighters would find positions in the fire service; and

20 WHEREAS, as Emergency Medical Services, or EMS, developed in the 1960s, the
21 IAFF supported the partnership between the EMS and fire protection; and

22 WHEREAS, today, the Fire & EMS Operations/GIS Department of the IAFF
23 provides comprehensive information on fire departments and fire-based EMS and promotes
24 staffing and deployment for fire suppression and fire-based EMS; and

25 WHEREAS, after the 9/11 tragedy at the New York Trade Center, the IAFF stepped
26 in to provide logistical support at Ground Zero, and sent stress management teams to aid
27 overwhelmed firefighters and grieving families, in addition to distributing \$96 million to
28 family members of fallen firefighters in 2002; and

1 WHEREAS, after 9/11, the leadership of the IAFF participated in the creation of the
2 United States Department of Homeland Security to ensure that fire protection was a priority
3 of the agency; and

4 WHEREAS, the firefighters of the IAFF are always included in the front lines of the
5 response to any national emergency, whether it be hurricanes or other natural disasters or
6 manmade ones, and they contribute time and resources to international relief efforts that
7 better the lives of children and families; and

8 WHEREAS, as the primary advocate for firefighters and paramedics, the IAFF
9 insists that fire personnel be properly equipped to effectively perform their duties, which
10 include ensuring the safety and protection of the nation's citizens; and

11 WHEREAS, the IAFF has been the leader in the advancement of fire safety services
12 throughout the nation, and it has led the way in the attempt to improve the working
13 conditions and compensation of those who step in harm's way to provide fire protection and
14 EMS to the community.

15 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
16 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend the International Association of Fire Fighters
17 for more than one hundred years of service and does hereby congratulate the brave men and
18 women of the firefighting profession for their manifold contributions to the state of
19 Louisiana.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted
21 to Harold A. Schaitberger, IAFF General President; Edward Kelly, IAFF General Secretary-
22 Treasurer; Danny Todd, IAFF Fourteenth District Vice President; and Chad Major,
23 Louisiana President of the IAFF.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HR 58 Original

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Jimmy Harris

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