

Regular Session, 2013

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 58

BY SENATOR CROWE

COMMENDATIONS. Commends St. Tammany Parish Fire District No. 1 Fire Chief Larry Hess for 48 years in fire protection, upon his retirement in September 2013.

1                                   A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2       To commend St. Tammany Parish Fire District No. 1 Fire Chief Larry Hess for his 48-year  
3                   career in fire protection upon his retirement in September 2013.

4                   WHEREAS, in April, Chief Larry Hess, age 67, submitted a letter of resignation,  
5                   effective on September 30 of this year, ending his 48-year career in fire protection; and

6                   WHEREAS, Chief Hess, ending his ten-year term as chief of the St. Tammany Parish  
7                   Fire District No. 1, thanked the board and others in the department while outlining what he  
8                   considered the signature accomplishments of his tenure as chief; and

9                   WHEREAS, Hess remarked in his letter that he was pleased to leave "a financially  
10                  stable public safety agency" which was not the case with the district when he took over as  
11                  chief a decade ago; and

12                  WHEREAS, during Hess' decade as chief, he stated that he and his staff operated the  
13                  department within its budget, while rolling back millage rates beyond that of any public  
14                  agency in St. Tammany Parish; and

15                  WHEREAS, Hess stated that his administration had created a safer workplace for fire  
16                  fighters and improved professionalism among the district employees; and

17                  WHEREAS, the chief also called attention to the paramedic program that was  
18                  implemented during his tenure and to the increased involvement of fire fighters and the

1 department in the surrounding community; and

2 WHEREAS, last fall the Property Insurance Association of Louisiana upgraded the  
3 fire rating for the unincorporated areas of the parish, moving from a four to a three based  
4 upon a scale of one to ten, with one being the best rating; and

5 WHEREAS, Hess said that the district implemented a strategic plan to improve the  
6 rating of the unincorporated areas, which lagged behind the three rating attained in the  
7 incorporated areas of the parish; and

8 WHEREAS, during his tenure the department increased staffing, developed new  
9 record-keeping practices and equipment placement, all factors which figured in the improved  
10 fire rating for the unincorporated areas of the parish; and

11 WHEREAS, prior to his designation as chief of St. Tammany Parish Fire District No.  
12 1, Hess served as fire superintendent for St. Tammany Parish; and

13 WHEREAS, fire district board Chairman, Dan Crowley, noted the chief's emphasis  
14 on the work of the district as a whole, not seeking individual credit for achievements; and

15 WHEREAS, Crowley especially noted that Hess has been "big about good order and  
16 discipline" which Crowley valued in Hess' service as chief.

17 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
18 commend and congratulate Fire Chief Larry Hess for his 48-year career in fire protection  
19 upon his retirement in September 2013.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Fire  
21 Chief Larry Hess of St. Tammany Parish Fire District No. 1.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part  
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Mary Dozier O'Brien.

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DIGEST

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SCR No. 58

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career in fire protection upon his retirement in September 2013.