

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 58

BY SENATOR CROWE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, the chief also called attention to the paramedic program that was implemented during his tenure and to the increased involvement of fire fighters and the department in the surrounding community; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES