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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 354

Offered February 5, 2002

Commending the Occoquan Woodbridge Lorton Volunteer Fire Department.

Patrons—McQuigg, Lingamfelter, Marshall, R.G., Parrish and Rollison; Senators: Colgan and Puller

WHEREAS, immediately after the attack on the Pentagon on the morning of September 11, 2001, members of the Occoquan Woodbridge Lorton Volunteer Fire Department (OWL VFD) began reporting to their stations to staff additional units; and

WHEREAS, Rescue Squad 2, Collapse 2, Air 12, Medic's 2 and 14, and Ambulance 12 and 14 were staffed by volunteers and, under the direction of Chief Arrington, were dispatched to provide mutual aid to Fairfax and Arlington County units; and

WHEREAS, the EMS units, replacing Arlington units committed to the Pentagon, ran calls throughout the day in Arlington, helping to provide uninterrupted service to the citizens of Arlington County; and

WHEREAS, the OWL Heavy Rescue and Collapse Company, consisting of 12 volunteers on the Squad Collapse and Air and Light Unit, moved first to Fairfax to fill in for their units supporting the Pentagon operation, and in the afternoon, the Heavy Rescue and Collapse Company reported to the Pentagon site and commenced operations filling air bottles, searching the impact site, and battling the fire on the roof; and

WHEREAS, at dusk, the roof operation was terminated and the OWL Heavy Rescue and Collapse Company began interior operations, conducting three secondary searches in the hot, darkened and smoke-filled concrete corridors of the approximately 1,000,000 square feet of Pentagon space involved in the collapse and ongoing fire; and

WHEREAS, the Heavy Rescue and Collapse Company fought secondary fires while mapping body locations, hose deployments, and the location and extent of structural damage; and

WHEREAS, throughout the night, the Air and Light team began deploying electric service and lights within the affected areas so the rescue and damage control operations could continue; and

WHEREAS, the Air and Light team, supplemented by other volunteers from OWL VFD, provided 24-hour support for the remainder of the week, helping with body recovery and supporting the FEMA USAR teams with utilities, deploying electricity and lights throughout the damaged area when and where requested; and

WHEREAS, throughout the week, volunteers kept their stations fully staffed and were able to send 65 OWL VFD members to provide EMS and fire relief crews for the units assigned to the Pentagon; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the members of the Occoquan Woodbridge Lorton Volunteer Fire Department be commended for their dedicated, tireless and selfless efforts in the face of great danger and hardship at the Pentagon September 11—14, 2001; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Chief Arrington as an expression of the admiration and appreciation of the General Assembly for the courage and commitment of the members of the Occoquan Woodbridge Lorton Volunteer Fire Department.

ENGROSSED

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