

2016 SESSION

ENROLLED

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 518

Commending the Alexandria Fire Department.

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, March 9, 2016
Agreed to by the Senate, March 10, 2016

WHEREAS, in 2016, the Alexandria Fire Department celebrates its 150th anniversary of protecting the people and businesses of Alexandria, one of the Commonwealth's oldest cities; and

WHEREAS, the origins of the Alexandria Fire Department precede the American Revolution; the Friendship Fire Company was established in 1774 and was followed by the Sun, Hydraulion, Relief, and Star volunteer fire companies; and

WHEREAS, in 1866, the Alexandria City Council voted to organize a paid fire department; the resolution that approved a paid fire department was published in the *Alexandria Gazette* on September 11, 1866—135 years to the day before the Alexandria Fire Department responded to the attacks of September 11, 2001; and

WHEREAS, from its earliest days, the mission of the Alexandria Fire Company has been to safeguard the people and businesses of the historic city through responsive emergency service and to prevent and mitigate fires and other emergencies, protect property, and enforce applicable codes in order to maintain and enhance public safety; and

WHEREAS, more than 250 people work for the Alexandria Fire Department as firefighters, paramedics, fire prevention specialists, and administrative staff; the department staffs 10 stations that cover nearly 16 square miles and works in partnership with its volunteer organization, the Alexandria Volunteer Fire Department; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend the Alexandria Fire Department on the occasion of its 150th anniversary; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the Alexandria Fire Department as an expression of the General Assembly's respect and admiration for its long history of protecting and serving the people of Alexandria.

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