

2020 SESSION

ENROLLED

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 44

Commending the Smithfield Volunteer Fire Department.

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, February 3, 2020

WHEREAS, the Smithfield Volunteer Fire Department celebrated its 80th anniversary of service in 2019; and

WHEREAS, on January 30, 1939, 30 members of the Smithfield community established the Smithfield Volunteer Fire Department in response to the area's need for efficient and effective fire protection services; and

WHEREAS, the Smithfield Volunteer Fire Department was the first fire department in Isle of Wight County and housed the first motorized fire apparatus in the county; Engine No. 1, a 1938 Ford Oren affectionately referred to as "Maude," still makes appearances during parades and special events; and

WHEREAS, in 1968, the Smithfield Volunteer Fire Department moved into a new firehouse and over the years acquired a larger and more advanced fleet to enhance the department's capabilities to respond to various emergencies; and

WHEREAS, today, the Smithfield Volunteer Fire Department is staffed by 72 volunteer fire fighters that serve a residential population of more than 10,000 citizens over a geographical area of over 200 square miles; and

WHEREAS, the Smithfield Volunteer Fire Department ensures its community's safety every day, answering an average of 800 service calls per year and providing many emergency services including fire suppression, vehicle rescue, emergency medical care, and hazardous materials mitigation; and

WHEREAS, by providing public educational programs and fire safety training, the Smithfield Volunteer Fire Department also helps citizens do their part to prevent fires and contribute to the town's safety; and

WHEREAS, after many years, the Smithfield Volunteer Fire Department continues to uphold the standards of excellence that has made it an invaluable institution to Smithfield and the Commonwealth; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, That the Smithfield Volunteer Fire Department hereby be commended on the occasion of its 80th anniversary; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Jerry Hackney, chief of the Smithfield Volunteer Fire Department, as an expression of the House of Delegates' tremendous respect for the department's history and its service to the Commonwealth.

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