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Offered January 30, 2023 Commending the Woodstock Fire Department.

Patron—Gilbert

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 281

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WHEREAS, the Woodstock Fire Department will celebrate 200 years of service to the community in

WHEREAS, the Woodstock Fire Department traces its roots to a meeting of concerned citizens at what is now the Shenandoah County Historic Courthouse on February 8, 1823, who volunteered to become the first members of the Shenandoah Fire Company; in 1931 the department built a new brick building and changed its name to the Woodstock Fire Department; and

WHEREAS, the Woodstock Fire Department is an all-volunteer community organization committed to serving the residents of the Town of Woodstock, Shenandoah County, and the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, the Woodstock Fire Department spends thousands of hours each year responding to emergency incidents, training, fundraising, and serving their neighbors in other ways; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Woodstock Fire Department risk their lives to ensure the safety and well-being of their neighbors, saving more than \$7 million worth of property and countless lives each vear; and

WHEREAS, the Woodstock Fire Department owns and maintains a fire station, six emergency vehicles, and modern equipment valued at over \$5 million and is funded entirely through donations and local fundraisers; and

WHEREAS, the first 200 years of the Woodstock Fire Department have been filled with countless stories of bravery, sacrifice, and dedication to duty; and

WHEREAS, throughout 2023, the Woodstock Fire Department will commemorate the organization's storied history and bright future; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, That the Woodstock Fire Department hereby be commended on the occasion of its historic 200th anniversary; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER. That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the Woodstock Fire Department as an expression of the House of Delegates' congratulations, admiration for the department's history, and contributions to the citizens of the Commonwealth, and best wishes in all its future endeavors.