

2008 SESSION

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 469

Offered February 22, 2008

Commending the Elliston Volunteer Fire Department.

Patrons—Nutter; Senator: Smith

WHEREAS, the Elliston Volunteer Fire Department is celebrating its 50th anniversary of outstanding service to the citizens of Elliston, Shawsville, and Montgomery County; and

WHEREAS, the Elliston Volunteer Fire Department was organized on April 26, 1957, when a group of local businessmen, who saw the need for a fire department in the area, gathered at Bryant Funeral Home to form a grassroots committee; and

WHEREAS, the board of supervisors of Montgomery County approved the establishment of a fire station and a 1941 Ford pumper truck was transferred from the Blacksburg Fire Department to equip the new Elliston fire station and hoses and nozzles were borrowed from the Christiansburg Fire Department; and

WHEREAS, the fire truck was housed in the garage of the Bryant Funeral Home; Grant Bryant, a charter member of the department, acted as the sole emergency dispatcher until the early 1960s; Wallace Hall served as the department's first fire chief; and the department had about 35 dedicated townspeople as volunteer members; and

WHEREAS, Chief M. L. "Pug" Wells, who has been fire chief for more than 40 years, is the only charter member actively serving the Elliston Volunteer Fire Department, but three charter members, Bill Long, Danny Hall, and J. R. "June" Williams remain loyal supporters of the fire station; and

WHEREAS, in 1958 the members of the Elliston Volunteer Fire Department began work on a new fire station at the current location on U.S. Route 460, and over the years, the building has undergone several renovations and expansions and in 1990 a second story was added; and

WHEREAS, the current home of the Elliston Volunteer Fire Department totals about 7,500 square feet, has six single bays, a kitchen, sleeping quarters, and office space; a new fire station is being built for the community in the Elliston-Lafayette Industrial Park; and

WHEREAS, in 2008 the Elliston Volunteer Fire Department looks forward to moving to its new station, which will have 15,000 square feet, six double bays, sleeping quarters for four firefighters on night duty, a communications room, kitchen, meeting room, offices, and a training room; and

WHEREAS, the well-trained and hardworking members of the Elliston Volunteer Fire Department are community heroes, who have provided continuous and excellent fire service to their appreciative neighbors for 50 years; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly commend and congratulate the Elliston Volunteer Fire Department on the occasion of its 50th anniversary; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the Elliston Volunteer Fire Department as an expression of the General Assembly's gratitude to the members of the department for their dedication to the citizens of Elliston, Shawsville, and Montgomery County.

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