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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 427

Offered March 5, 2010

Commending James Wesley Epperly.

Patron—Nutter and Shuler; Senators: Edwards and Smith

WHEREAS, James Wesley Epperly, the respected fire chief and fire marshal of the Christiansburg Fire Department, will retire after 45 years of outstanding service to his fellow citizens, his community, and the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, James "Jim" Wesley Epperly has been an enthusiastic supporter of the Christiansburg Fire Department all his life and aspired to be a fireman like his uncle since boyhood; and

WHEREAS, Jim Epperly was born in Christiansburg, attended school in Nashville, Tennessee, and returned to his hometown in 1965 and signed on as a volunteer firefighter for the Christiansburg Fire Department; and

WHEREAS, Jim Epperly has served as fire chief of the Christiansburg Fire Department since 1972 and as full-time fire chief and fire marshal since May 1988; he has emphasized training and teamwork; and

WHEREAS, devoting countless hours to the fire service, Chief Jim Epperly has led the Christiansburg Fire Department during a time of considerable change in firefighting techniques, equipment, and emergency management services (EMS); and

WHEREAS, committed to the well-being and safety of the residents of his beloved Town of Christiansburg, Chief Jim Epperly has generously volunteered his time and expertise to many professional organizations over the years, including as president of the Virginia Fire Chiefs Association, Virginia State Firefighters Association, and Southwest Virginia Firefighters Association and as chair of the Virginia Fire Services Board and Montgomery County Firemen's Association; and

WHEREAS, throughout his distinguished public service career, Chief Jim Epperly has received numerous awards and accolades for his contributions to his profession and to his community; and

WHEREAS, a man of integrity, caring, and strength of character, Chief Jim Epperly is a mentor and role model for EMS professionals across the Commonwealth; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly commend James Wesley Epperly on his outstanding leadership as chief and fire marshal of the Christiansburg Fire Department; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to James Wesley Epperly as an expression of the General Assembly's appreciation for his many achievements and best wishes for a happy and rewarding retirement.

INTRODUCED

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