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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 644

Offered January 9, 2013

Prefiled January 8, 2013

*Commending William Leslie Mariner.*_____
Patron—Lewis

WHEREAS, in 2013 William Leslie Mariner became the first individual to celebrate 50 years as a member of the Greenbackville Volunteer Fire Department, Incorporated; and

WHEREAS, William "Bill" Mariner moved to Greenbackville in 1963 and joined the Greenbackville Volunteer Fire Department in September; and

WHEREAS, after working his way up to become assistant chief, Bill Mariner rose to the rank of fire chief in 1974 and strengthened the department through initiatives to increase membership and modernize equipment; and

WHEREAS, to better serve the people of Greenbackville, Bill Mariner, in 1978, became one of the department's first emergency medical technicians, helped acquire the department's first ambulance, and worked to commence ambulance services with the Greenbackville Volunteer Fire Department Rescue Squad; and

WHEREAS, Bill Mariner held the position of chief longer than anyone in the department, guiding the department as fire chief until 1984, assistant chief until 1986, and again as fire chief from 1987 to 1995; and

WHEREAS, Bill Mariner's leadership allowed the Greenbackville Volunteer Fire Department to operate at the highest levels and protect Greenbackville during his tenure, earning him the respect of the department and the community; and

WHEREAS, the Greenbackville Volunteer Fire Department showed respect by placing a new fire engine into service on Bill Mariner's birthday in 1989, a fitting gift for someone who had devoted so much to the betterment of the department; and

WHEREAS, in addition to shepherding his own department, Bill Mariner spent decades influencing other young firefighters on the Eastern Shore as an adjunct instructor at the Virginia Department of Fire Programs; and

WHEREAS, the Delmarva Volunteer Firemen's Association Hall of Fame and the Firemen's Historical Society of Delmarva honored Bill Mariner by inducting him into both in 1992; and

WHEREAS, in 1996 Bill Mariner was elected president of the Greenbackville Volunteer Fire Department, a position he would hold until 1998; and, to continue directly helping those in need, he also served Accomack County as a fire medic from 1994 to 2004; and

WHEREAS, having already dedicated most of his adult life to the public, Bill Mariner continues to serve by sitting on the board of trustees of the Greenbackville Volunteer Fire Department; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend William Leslie Mariner for 50 years of service to Greenbackville, Accomack County, and the Commonwealth; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to William Leslie Mariner as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for William Leslie Mariner's resolute leadership of the Greenbackville Volunteer Fire Department, Incorporated.

INTRODUCED

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