

## 2014 SESSION

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### HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 206

Offered January 24, 2014

*Commending Thomas Oesterheld.*

Patrons—Orrock, Cole, Farrell and Fowler; Senators: McDougale and Reeves

WHEREAS, Thomas Oesterheld, who has admirably served the citizens of Spotsylvania County as a member of the Spotsylvania Volunteer Fire Department, retired in 2013 after 57 years of service; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Oesterheld joined the Spotsylvania Volunteer Fire Department in 1956 when he turned 18 and became chief of the department in 1964; at that time, he was the youngest volunteer fire chief in the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, in Thomas Oesterheld's first years with the department—when Spotsylvania was a largely rural jurisdiction—firefighters might respond to a dozen or fewer calls a month; today, there are more than 15,000 calls per year for emergency assistance; and

WHEREAS, as fire chief, Thomas Oesterheld oversaw three volunteer fire stations which today have 135 active members; throughout his tenure, he strongly supported efforts to acquire and maintain the best equipment possible; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Oesterheld faced danger daily in his work to protect the lives and property of the residents of Spotsylvania County; as the county's population grew, he urged professional firefighters to join the fire department to work in tandem with the volunteers; and

WHEREAS, throughout his time with the Spotsylvania Volunteer Fire Department, Thomas Oesterheld promoted the use of state-of-the-art technology and communications to enable firefighters to make quicker and better responses to emergencies; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend Thomas Oesterheld, an esteemed public servant, for his 57 years of service on the Spotsylvania Volunteer Fire Department; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Thomas Oesterheld as an expression of the General Assembly's respect and admiration for his tireless and diligent efforts to protect the citizens of Spotsylvania County and the Commonwealth.

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