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1 **HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 518**
2 Offered March 7, 2016
3 *Commending the Alexandria Fire Department.*
4 _____

Patrons—Herring and Levine; Senators: Barker, Ebbin and Saslaw
5 _____

6 WHEREAS, in 2016, the Alexandria Fire Department celebrates its 150th anniversary of protecting
7 the people and businesses of Alexandria, one of the Commonwealth's oldest cities; and
8 WHEREAS, the origins of the Alexandria Fire Department precede the American Revolution; the
9 Friendship Fire Company was established in 1774 and was followed by the Sun, Hydraulion, Relief, and
10 Star volunteer fire companies; and
11 WHEREAS, in 1866, the Alexandria City Council voted to organize a paid fire department; the
12 resolution that approved a paid fire department was published in the *Alexandria Gazette* on September
13 11, 1866—135 years to the day before the Alexandria Fire Department responded to the attacks of
14 September 11, 2001; and
15 WHEREAS, from its earliest days, the mission of the Alexandria Fire Company has been to
16 safeguard the people and businesses of the historic city through responsive emergency service and to
17 prevent and mitigate fires and other emergencies, protect property, and enforce applicable codes in order
18 to maintain and enhance public safety; and
19 WHEREAS, more than 250 people work for the Alexandria Fire Department as firefighters,
20 paramedics, fire prevention specialists, and administrative staff; the department staffs 10 stations that
21 cover nearly 16 square miles and works in partnership with its volunteer organization, the Alexandria
22 Volunteer Fire Department; now, therefore, be it
23 RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby
24 commend the Alexandria Fire Department on the occasion of its 150th anniversary; and, be it
25 RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution
26 for presentation to the Alexandria Fire Department as an expression of the General Assembly's respect
27 and admiration for its long history of protecting and serving the people of Alexandria.