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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 215

Offered March 7, 2022

Commending the Toga Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.

Patrons—Peake and Mason

WHEREAS, the Toga Volunteer Fire Department, Inc., has served and safeguarded the residents of Dillwyn and the surrounding area for 50 years; and

WHEREAS, the Toga Volunteer Fire Department was chartered on November 14, 1972, by a group of concerned citizens hoping to protect and safeguard their fellow residents; of the 22 original members, two are still living, Roger Moore and Bill Talbert, who is still active with the department; and

WHEREAS, the fourth volunteer fire department established in Buckingham County, Toga Volunteer Fire Department primarily serves a 200-square-mile area in the western part of the county; and

WHEREAS, throughout its history, Toga Volunteer Fire Department has responded to many high profile incidents, including the fire at Longwood University in 2001 and the search and recovery operation of a crashed United States Army Blackhawk helicopter in 2004; and

WHEREAS, in 2021, Toga Volunteer Fire Department completed construction of an emergency shelter, which was put into use during a winter storm in January 2022 and provided 94 individuals with warmth and safety in extreme conditions; and

WHEREAS, the Toga Volunteer Fire Department is equipped with the latest equipment to handle a wide range of emergency situations, including structure fires, brush fires, motor vehicle accidents, machinery extrication, search and rescue operations, and other services; and

WHEREAS, members of the Toga Volunteer Fire Department are highly trained and committed to community service, enhancing life in the region not only through their courage and determination in the face of crisis situations, but through outreach programs like smoke detector giveaways and school visits; and

WHEREAS, the Toga Volunteer Fire Department strives to create a welcoming and supportive atmosphere for its members; it was the first fire company in Buckingham County to count female members among its ranks and the first to be led by a Black chief; and

WHEREAS, the current 36 members of the Toga Volunteer Fire Department have a combined 400 years of experience in fire service for an average of 11.6 years per member, and the department is well poised to continue serving the community and meet the challenges of the future; now, therefore, be it

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

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the Toga Volunteer Fire Department, Inc., as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for the department's contributions to the Buckingham County community.

INTRODUCED

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