



HR0037

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, It has come to the attention of this body that the East Joliet Fire Department is celebrating the 75th anniversary of its founding; and

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WHEREAS, In March of 1939, a vote was held at A.O. Marshall School in Joliet concerning the building of the Department, which was overwhelmingly approved; and

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WHEREAS, Before the department had any equipment or a formal organization, William J. Bolton was selected to serve as Chief of the Department; and

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WHEREAS, In June of 1940, the Department acquired its first piece of equipment, a chemical truck purchased from the Orland Park Fire Department; later that year, the firemen built a 2-bay fire station at 409 Leach Avenue in Joliet and a 1936 tanker was purchased; in September of 1942, a third truck was obtained from the Dwight Fire Department; and

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WHEREAS, In 1950, 2-way radios were purchased for all of the Department's trucks; in 1953, 30 home receivers were placed in the volunteers' homes to alert them about fire calls; and

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WHEREAS, In 1959, an election was held to form a Fire

1 Protection District, which was overwhelmingly approved; and

2 WHEREAS, In April of 1963, Chief Bolton passed away and
3 Robert J. Klint was selected to serve as the next Chief of the
4 Department; and

5 WHEREAS, In May of 1964, a second station was built at 102
6 East Zarley Boulevard in Joliet; and

7 WHEREAS, In 1978, a third fire station was built at 911
8 South Briggs Street in Joliet; this station now serves as
9 headquarters for the Department; and

10 WHEREAS, In February of 2000, Chief Klint passed away and
11 Robert F. Scholtes, Jr. was appointed as acting chief; in
12 October of 2000, Robert F. Scholtes, Jr. was appointed to serve
13 as Chief of the Fire Department; and

14 WHEREAS, Today, the East Joliet Fire Department has 12
15 full-time firefighters and a core group of part-time and paid
16 on-call firefighters who operate 2 engines, one 105-foot ladder
17 truck, one heavy rescue truck, 3 ALS ambulances, and one
18 4-wheel-drive brush truck; therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
20 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we

1 congratulate the members of the East Joliet Fire Department on
2 the occasion of the 75th anniversary of its founding, commend
3 their dedication and selfless service, and extend our best
4 wishes to them for continued success in the future; and be it
5 further

6 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
7 presented to Robert F. Scholtes, Jr. as a symbol of our esteem
8 and respect.