



HR0619

LRB098 14369 MST 49163 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are pleased to congratulate the Mount Prospect
4 Fire Department on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of its
5 founding; and

6 WHEREAS, The Mount Prospect Fire Department was formed by
7 community leaders at a meeting at the Central School on
8 September 29, 1913, when the Village had a population of only
9 300, and the Department's small number of volunteers performed
10 their duties with only ladders, buckets, and a hand pump; and

11 WHEREAS, Early in the Department's history, various pieces
12 of equipment were purchased, including the first vehicle, a
13 Buick Chassis truck, and the first fire engine, an American
14 LaFrance referred to as "Ol' Betsy"; and

15 WHEREAS, The Village of Mount Prospect approved pay for
16 firefighters and in the mid-1940s constructed the first
17 permanent building for the Fire Department at a cost of
18 \$112,600; and

19 WHEREAS, The Mount Prospect Fire Department expanded in the
20 1960s and 1970s, hiring its first 2 full-time firefighters,
21 building a second fire station, purchasing its first ambulance,

1 and acquiring a Dalmatian mascot named Smokey; and

2 WHEREAS, In 1970, the Mount Prospect Fire Department became
3 a founding member of the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS),
4 an agreement for resource-sharing and cooperation among
5 departments in responding to emergencies; and

6 WHEREAS, In a demonstration of planning for the future, the
7 Department established a partnership with Northwest Community
8 Hospital in 1972 to create one of the first paramedic programs
9 in the country, and then later teamed up with Arlington Heights
10 and Elk Grove Village to establish the first centralized
11 emergency dispatch center in the Chicagoland area; and

12 WHEREAS, The Mount Prospect Fire Department joined with the
13 fire departments of Arlington Heights, Elk Grove Village, and
14 Des Plaines to form a 4-town Hazardous Materials Team; and

15 WHEREAS, Firefighters from the Mount Prospect Fire
16 Department were among the volunteers who traveled to Louisiana
17 to assist in the recovery from Hurricane Katrina; and

18 WHEREAS, The Mount Prospect Fire Department is tasked with
19 the responsibility of overseeing emergency management for the
20 entire Village; and

1 WHEREAS, The Mount Prospect Fire Department has grown along
2 with the Village's needs and now has 3 stations, 4 engines, 3
3 ambulances, and 88 personnel to respond to the nearly 6,000
4 calls it receives each year; therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
6 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
7 we honor the Mount Prospect Fire Department on the occasion of
8 its 100th anniversary and recognize its outstanding record of
9 service to Village residents during those 100 years; and be it
10 further

11 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
12 presented to the Mount Prospect Village Board and the Mount
13 Prospect Fire Department as a symbol of our esteem and respect.