

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 472

By Staples

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Firefighters Eric "Bo" Merritt, Kevin Tippens, and Buddy Gibson and the team from the Park City/Park Ridge Fire Station #4 for their heroism during a recent fire.

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee is blessed with firefighters who risk their personal safety, even their lives, to protect and serve their communities in times of disaster and crisis; and

WHEREAS, firefighters are often the first responders to situations that threaten the public safety, and these brave men and women continue to earn our loyalty and appreciation with their heroism and professionalism during emergencies; and

WHEREAS, Firefighters Eric "Bo" Merritt, Kevin Tippens, and Buddy Gibson and the team from the Park City/Park Ridge Fire Station #4 in Knoxville were truly heroic in their response to a fire on April 23, 2017; and

WHEREAS, these brave firefighters answered a call at the Lakewood Building of the Magnolia Apartments in east Knoxville; upon their arrival, they discovered the fire had begun in the rear stairwell of the four-story building, blocking the exit for its forty-four residents; and

WHEREAS, as black smoke, fumes, and asphyxiant gases flooded the building, the firefighters found that it was safer to place ladders on the front of the building to remove the trapped residents; and

WHEREAS, two of the trapped residents were a father and his one-month-old baby; Fireman Bo Merritt yelled at the father to drop the infant from the building in order to quickly remove the child from the smoky environment; the father dropped the baby twenty to thirty feet below to Fireman Merritt, who caught him. The infant was not injured in the exchange, and the father was later rescued by ladder; and

WHEREAS, although a few tenants were sent to the hospital, there were no fatalities, and all of the building's residents were able to return home by the following day; and

WHEREAS, we wish to extend our gratitude and approbation to these brave members of the Park City/Park Ridge Fire Station #4; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Firefighters Eric "Bo" Merritt, Kevin Tippens, and Buddy Gibson and the team from the Park City/Park Ridge Fire Station #4 in Knoxville for their heroism in coming to the rescue of their fellow citizens during a recent fire and thank them for a dangerous job well done.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.