

HOUSE RESOLUTION 59

By Camper

A RESOLUTION to honor Fire Chief Gina Y. Sweat in celebration of Women's History Month in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, the month of March was officially designated as Women's History Month in 1987; and

WHEREAS, every March, Women's History Month provides an opportunity to honor the achievements of those women who have paved the way wherein every person has an opportunity to pursue the American dream; and

WHEREAS, the Volunteer State is proud to be the home of a number of historic, pioneering women, including the awe-inspiring Gina Y. Sweat, an eminent firefighter and civil servant, who currently serves as the Fire Chief for the Memphis Fire Department; and

WHEREAS, Fire Chief Gina Sweat earned her Bachelor of Business Administration in marketing from Freed-Hardeman University, where she also played collegiate basketball, in 1988, and joined the Memphis Fire Department in 1992, where she rose through the ranks from driver to division chief; and

WHEREAS, in the midst of her career, she furthered her education and obtained a Bachelor of Professional Studies in Fire Administration in 2000 and a Master of Professional Studies in Strategic Leadership in 2013, both from the University of Memphis; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, Gina Sweat was appointed Fire Chief for the Memphis Fire Department by Mayor Jim Strickland, after having served as the Deputy Chief of Logistics and Deputy Director on an interim basis; and

WHEREAS, the Memphis Fire Department, under Fire Chief Sweat's leadership, has raised its Insurance Services Office Public Protection Classification from Class 2 to Class 1, developed the Healthcare Navigator Program to reduce the impact of non-emergent responses,

and recruited through a new emphasis on youth programs like HERo Day, Shelby County Schools Grow Our Own, Fire Explorers, and Fire Cadet; and

WHEREAS, she developed a facilities master plan that culminated in multi-million-dollar renovations to the 911 Communications Center and the Office of Emergency Management and the creation of three new state-of-the-art fire stations and a new fire administrative building; and

WHEREAS, Fire Chief Sweat has emphasized health and safety in the department, leading to the purchase of SCBAs with built-in thermal imaging cameras, on-duty health physicals, and multiple carcinogen-reduction initiatives, a therapy dog program, and an online therapy program; and

WHEREAS, under the direction of Fire Chief Sweat, the Memphis Fire Department became the lead agency for COVID-19 vaccinations in Shelby County in 2021, facilitating over one million doses; and

WHEREAS, in saluting Fire Chief Sweat during Women's History Month, let us remember that when women succeed, America succeeds, as does Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby honor Fire Chief Gina Y. Sweat on her many contributions to the State of Tennessee as we celebrate Women's History Month and the generations of trailblazing women who have built our State and their vital contributions to our country's history.

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