

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 810

By Haile

A RESOLUTION to recognize Chief Jamie H. Steele on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout their careers in public safety; and

WHEREAS, Chief Jamie H. Steele is one such estimable person who served with distinction for thirty-eight years with the Hendersonville Fire Department (HFD), serving as fire chief for the past fourteen years; and

WHEREAS, Chief Steele will be taking a much deserved retirement on June 30, 2014, after an impressive career that commenced and concludes with the same fire department; and

WHEREAS, a fourth-generation resident of Hendersonville, Jamie H. Steele began his career in firefighting in December 1975 when he joined the Hendersonville Fire Department as one of eighteen firefighters working out of two fire stations; and

WHEREAS, during his career with the department he rose through the ranks; he was promoted to lieutenant in 1979, division chief in the mid-1990s, and then chief in 2000; and

WHEREAS, the Hendersonville Fire Department grew exponentially under the direction of Chief Steele and is stronger than ever due to his phenomenal leadership; and

WHEREAS, Chief Jamie Steele effected numerous improvements and expansions to the Hendersonville Fire Department, including opening Fire Stations #5 and #6 and procuring new fire engines for both stations; naming the department's first chaplain, Captain Dennis Allen; forming HFD's first elite Honor Guard; and securing the replacement of the 1994 aerial ladder truck with a state-of-the-art platform ladder truck; and

WHEREAS, during Chief Jamie Steele's tenure, the fire department's personnel expanded from seventy employees to 101 uniformed officers and two office staff; the

department received five million dollars in federal grants; and the fire suppression personnel now includes a fire marshal, four fire inspectors, and several certified fire investigators; and

WHEREAS, Chief Steele has been instrumental in updating the department's equipment, restructuring the Dive Rescue and Recovery Team for which he acquired two new jet skis; replacing the department's fire boat; modernizing the MSA air packs, masks, and Quick Fill System; obtaining two thermal imaging cameras for every fire engine; purchasing new computers and printers for the firehouses; and attaining a decontamination washer to enhance safety for the firefighters, along with several other improvements; and

WHEREAS, Chief Jamie Steele focused on fire safety by teaching and implementing firefighter training programs that are highly regarded throughout the state; as a testament to his commitment to education and training, the HFD is acknowledged as one of the leading departments in contact hours at the State Fire Academy; and

WHEREAS, after his retirement, Chief Steele plans to continue teaching at the Tennessee Fire Services and Codes Enforcement Agency on a part-time basis; a true leader in the Tennessee Fire Service, he has been praised by his peers as a "champion for training and education for firefighters"; and

WHEREAS, Chief Jamie S. Steele exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Chief Steele demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his colleagues and a grateful public; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we extend to Chief Jamie H. Steele our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement, thank him for his service to the state of Tennessee, and wish him every continued success in his future endeavors.

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