

**No. R-457. House concurrent resolution congratulating the Hinesburg Fire Department on its 75th anniversary.**

(H.C.R.383)

Offered by: Representative Lippert of Hinesburg

Whereas, in 1943, following repeated fires at a local cheese plant that prompted the owners to contract with the Burlington Fire Department, a sense of civic pride prompted local citizens to organize the Hinesburg Firemen's Association, the forerunner of the Hinesburg Fire Department, and

Whereas, the key point of the Department's goal "is to assure the citizens of Hinesburg that fire, rescue, and medical services provided by the Hinesburg Fire Department will continue to be of the highest quality," and

Whereas, the Hinesburg Selectboard appointed Charlie LaBelle as the first chief, and the Department's original truck was an old Chevrolet with a 55-gallon drum that when loaded with baking soda triggered a single hose, and

Whereas, within a few years, a single bay fire station was constructed and a 1945 Ford pumper truck was purchased, and

Whereas, in 1956, a second bay was added to the fire station, in order to accommodate the Department's and the area's first water tanker, and

Whereas, for many years, calls for firefighters to report for duty were transmitted to 20 telephone numbers, including Lantman's Store, from where a line triggered the siren on the fire station's roof, and

Whereas, in 1967, Bernard Giroux became chief, and his 32-year tenure featured the construction of a new fire station, funded and built through volunteer efforts, and

Whereas, later in the 1970s, the first of two additions was added to the building, and a second more extensive expansion occurred in 2001, and

Whereas, also in the 1970s, the Department and interested residents of Williston and St. George established Iroquois First Response for medical emergencies, and the service continued until 2000 when the Department assumed first response responsibility for both Hinesburg and St. George, and

Whereas, the Department offers community CPR trainings and fire safety education sessions in local schools, and

Whereas, since 1999, Chief Alton Barber's dynamic leadership has ensured that the Department has kept apace with the latest firefighting and first response practices and technology, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the Hinesburg Fire Department on its 75th anniversary, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Hinesburg Fire Department.