

2018 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 197

BY SENATOR WARD

COMMENDATIONS. Commemorates the one hundredth anniversary of the International Association of Fire Fighters.

A RESOLUTION

To commemorate the one hundredth anniversary of the establishment of the International Association of Fire Fighters and to note the many contributions made to fire safety by the association.

WHEREAS, the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) was founded in Washington, D.C., on February 26, 1918, when thirty-six delegates representing twenty-four local organizations met at its first convention; and

WHEREAS, the IAFF was organized to meet the needs of the emerging professional fire fighter; at that time, fire protection services were haphazard and fire fighters were often endangered by the lack of safety equipment and operational standards, and with little or no compensation; and

WHEREAS, before the organization existed, a fire fighter would work a shift that consisted of twenty-four hours per day on continuous duty for lengthy periods of time at very low wages; and

WHEREAS, the IAFF progressed and established improved working conditions, substantial benefits, and better wages; and

WHEREAS, the Fire Fighters Fund was created to provide benevolent contributions to the children of fallen fire fighters; and

1 WHEREAS, during the Great Depression of the 1930s, fire fighting became a more
2 dependable form of employment; the profession benefitted from improvements in safety
3 technology including two-way radio communications, breathing equipment, and lifesaving
4 devices; and

5 WHEREAS, in 1934, the IAFF was recognized by the National Fire Protection
6 Association, the United States Department of Agriculture, and other national organizations
7 for its crucial role in the reduction of fire hazards, in the education of the public, and in fire
8 safety research; and

9 WHEREAS, when the United States entered into World War II, IAFF fire fighters
10 answered the call to military service in all branches of the armed forces and were uniquely
11 trained to do so; and

12 WHEREAS, in the December 1941 issue of Fire Fighter Magazine, the IAFF
13 declared to its members, *"The fire fighters of the Nation, in particular, have a distinct*
14 *service to perform. Already well-organized, trained, and accustomed to discipline and the*
15 *orderly performance of their duties under any and all conditions, and with complete*
16 *disregard of any personal danger, fire fighters may be expected to set an example for their*
17 *fellow citizens in the trying days that lay ahead."*; and

18 WHEREAS, the IAFF assisted in the coordination of its members during World
19 War II to ensure that fire fighters were available to serve both at home and in combat, and
20 when fire fighters returned from military service, the IAFF worked to ensure able-bodied
21 members would return to their firehouses to continue their employment and disabled fire
22 fighters could find positions in the fire service; and

23 WHEREAS, as Emergency Medical Services developed in the 1960s, emergency
24 healthcare services partnered with fire protection with the full support of the IAFF; today
25 the Fire and EMS Operations/GIS Department of the IAFF provides comprehensive
26 information on fire departments and fire-based EMS and promotes appropriate staffing and
27 deployment for fire suppression and effective fire-based emergency medical service systems;
28 and

29 WHEREAS, after the 9/11 tragedy at the New York Trade Center, IAFF stepped in
30 to provide logistical support at Ground Zero; the association sent stress management teams

1 to aid overwhelmed fire fighters and grieving families; and IAFF distributed \$96 million to
2 family members of fallen fire firefighters in 2002; and

3 WHEREAS, after 9/11, the leadership of the IAFF participated in the creation of the
4 United States Department of Homeland Security to ensure that fire protection served a
5 prominent role within the agency; and

6 WHEREAS, the fire fighters of the IAFF are always included on the front lines to
7 respond to any national emergency, whether hurricanes or other natural or manmade
8 disasters; they contribute time and resources to international relief efforts that better the lives
9 of children and families; and

10 WHEREAS, as the primary advocate for fire fighters and paramedics, the IAFF
11 insists that fire personnel be properly equipped to effectively preform their duties which
12 include the safety and protection of eighty-five percent of the population of North America;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, the IAFF has been the leader in the advancement of fire safety services
15 throughout the nation and it has been a supporter of increased benefits for those who step in
16 harm's way to provide fire protection and emergency medical services to the community.

17 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
18 does hereby commemorate the one hundredth anniversary of the International Association
19 of Fire Fighters and does hereby note the many contributions to fire safety made by the
20 IAFF.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does
22 hereby congratulate the brave men and women in the fire fighting profession.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to
24 Harold A. Schaitberger, IAFF General President; Edward Kelly, IAFF General Secretary-
25 Treasurer; Danny Todd, IAFF Fourteenth District Vice President, and Chad Major,
26 Louisiana President of the International Association of Fire Fighters.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Suzi Montague.

	DIGEST	
SR 197 Original	2018 Regular Session	Ward
Commemorates the 100th anniversary of the International Association of Fire Fighters.		