



HJ0056

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1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Firefighter support groups like the Illinois
3 Firefighter Peer Support (ILFFPS) team have championed the
4 cause of emotional wellness in the fire service; and

5 WHEREAS, The ILFFPS and its 200 members in Illinois
6 continue to provide peer support to firefighters in need; and

7 WHEREAS, The ILFFPS has shared its vision of emotional
8 wellness in the fire service with Minnesota, Kentucky,
9 Connecticut, North Carolina, Florida, and Alaska, and
10 continues to reach out to firefighters in need in Illinois and
11 beyond; and

12 WHEREAS, The Firefighter Behavioral Health Alliance (FBHA)
13 is the only known organization in the United States that tracks
14 and validates suicides among firefighters and emergency
15 medical service responders; and

16 WHEREAS, Behavioral health and suicides are becoming
17 recognized as major health issues for first responders; and

18 WHEREAS, More firefighters died by suicide in 2015 and 2016
19 than in the line of duty; and

1 WHEREAS, State government officials need to recognize
2 behavioral health issues and support fire and EMS organizations
3 with funding and policies to reduce these tragic events; and

4 WHEREAS, On May 19, 2017, at 9:00 pm, in recognition of
5 Mental Health Awareness Month, the FBHA is asking fire and EMS
6 organizations to place a rig(s) on their driveway and turn on
7 their emergency lights for one minute to express support for
8 all the families that have suffered a loss; and

9 WHEREAS, Community members are welcome to join their local
10 participating location or stand in their own driveway and light
11 a candle to remember a loved one; therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
13 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE SENATE
14 CONCURRING HEREIN, that we recognize May 19, 2017 as a day to
15 honor police officers and firefighters who have lost their
16 lives and suffer from PTSD, depression, and other mental health
17 issues; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
19 presented to the Illinois Firefighter Peer Support team as a
20 symbol of our respect and esteem.