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HOUSE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives wish to recognize the Peoria Heights Fire Department on the occasion of its 100th anniversary in July of 2017; and

WHEREAS, There have been nine fire chiefs since the department was incorporated in 1917; the first, E.J. Brayton, served for three years; the longest running fire chief was William "Bill" Bair, who served from 1953 to 1998; the current chief, Greg Walters, was appointed on September 12, 2012; and

WHEREAS, The department started with seven volunteers who responded from their homes, manning three hand-operated hose carts that were stored in the yards of the volunteers; and

WHEREAS, The department responds to approximately 850 calls per year; today, the department provides fire suppression, fire prevention, technical rescue response (vehicle accidents, elevator rescues), and emergency medical services within a 2.3 square mile response area; and

WHEREAS, The Peoria Heights Fire Department was a major player in the rescue and recovery operation following the 2013 Washington, Illinois F-4 tornado; personnel from the

1 department were stationed at Washington's fire station for  
2 seven days following the tornado, working side by side with  
3 members of other departments from around central Illinois; and

4 WHEREAS, Since its inception, the members of Peoria Heights  
5 Fire Department have always been ready willing and able to  
6 assist their neighbors in their time of need, whether it was  
7 due to the ravages of fire or from a natural disaster, the  
8 department has responded; therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
10 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
11 recognize the Peoria Heights Fire Department on its 100th  
12 anniversary, and we wish it many more successful years; and be  
13 it further

14 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
15 presented to the Peoria Heights Fire Department as a symbol of  
16 our respect and esteem.