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HOUSE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives wish to congratulate Chief James F. Burke Jr. on the occasion of his retirement from the Wood Dale Fire Protection District on November 9, 2023; and

WHEREAS, Chief Burke has dedicated 43 years of his life to serving the residents of DuPage County, exhibiting unwavering commitment and tireless dedication; and

WHEREAS, Chief Burke commenced his illustrious career as a part-time/paid-on-call firefighter with the Wood Dale Fire Protection District in 1980, serving the Wood Dale community until 1982; and

WHEREAS, In 1982, Chief Burke transitioned to the Addison Fire Protection District, where he ascended the ranks from firefighter/paramedic to the position of deputy chief, furthering his service to the citizens of DuPage County;; and

WHEREAS, Chief Burke exhibited exemplary leadership by directing vocational firefighter and EMT training for high school students at the Technology Center of DuPage, which benefited numerous students from over 14 member school districts in DuPage County; and

1 WHEREAS, In 2011, Chief Burke retired from the Addison
2 Fire Protection District and assumed the role of fire chief
3 for the Itasca Fire Protection District, where he continued to
4 demonstrate exceptional leadership until 2022; and

5 WHEREAS, Chief Burke's legacy was further enriched when he
6 returned to his roots in 2022, becoming the fire chief for the
7 Wood Dale Fire Protection District, a testament to his
8 enduring dedication to the community where his firefighting
9 journey began; and

10 WHEREAS, Chief Burke's remarkable career has extended
11 beyond his frontline duties as he has inspired and mentored
12 countless individuals, encouraging them to join the fire
13 service and become stewards of public safety; and

14 WHEREAS, Chief Burke's influence has reverberated through
15 his service on various boards and committees, including
16 overseeing Mutual Aid Box Alarm System operations spanning
17 most of DuPage County and parts of northwest Cook County and
18 serving as president of MABAS Division 12, as president of the
19 DuPage County Fire Chiefs Association, and as a valued member
20 of the DuPage County Health Department's H.O.P.E. Task Force,
21 addressing critical issues of Heroin Opioid Prevention &
22 Education; and

1 WHEREAS, Chief Burke is an exemplar of valor, leadership,
2 and community spirit; and

3 WHEREAS, Chief Burke will be honored and celebrated on the
4 occasion of his retirement from the Wood Dale Fire Protection
5 District on November 9, 2023; therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
7 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
8 we congratulate Chief James F. Burke Jr. on the occasion of his
9 retirement from the Wood Dale Fire Protection District on
10 November 9, 2023; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That we express our deepest gratitude to Chief
12 Burke Jr. for his extraordinary dedication and selfless
13 service and for the enduring positive impact he has made on the
14 community; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be presented to
16 Chief Burke as a symbol of our esteem and respect.