

1 HJR33
2 165055-1
3 By Representative Ford
4 RFD: Rules
5 First Read: 05-MAR-15

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8 DESIGNATING FIREFIGHTER APPRECIATION DAY EACH YEAR
9 ON THE FRIDAY OF FIRE PREVENTION WEEK.
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11 WHEREAS, firefighters are unsung heroes who are
12 prepared to be summoned at any moment to risk their own safety
13 to preserve lives and suppress fires; and

14 WHEREAS, firefighters must retain their composure in
15 a variety of emergency situations while fulfilling
16 requirements including connecting hoses to hydrants, operating
17 pumps to power the hoses, climbing ladders, using tools to
18 break through debris, entering burning buildings to extinguish
19 a fire and rescue individuals, and providing medical
20 attention; they wear many hats and may have their duties
21 change a number of times while at an emergency situation; and

22 WHEREAS, occasionally, firefighters may have to
23 remain at the scene of a disaster for days on end; and

24 WHEREAS, firefighters remain on call during shifts
25 that usually last 24 hours; while at the fire station, they
26 routinely inspect equipment and perform practice drills; and

1 WHEREAS, some jobs that specialized firefighters
2 conduct include extinguishing forest fires and cleaning up
3 hazardous materials; and

4 WHEREAS, in 2012 firefighters held about 307,000
5 jobs, and 91 percent worked for local governments; the
6 majority of the remainder worked for federal and state
7 governments while others worked at airports, chemical plants,
8 and other industrial sites; volunteer firefighters carry out
9 many of the same responsibilities as paid firefighters and
10 comprise the majority of firefighters in many areas; and

11 WHEREAS, the fire fighting occupation has one of the
12 highest rates of injuries and illnesses; and

13 WHEREAS, Fire Prevention Week was established to
14 commemorate the Great Chicago Fire, the tragic 1871
15 conflagration that killed more than 250 people, left 100,000
16 homeless, destroyed more than 17,400 structures and burned
17 more than 2,000 acres; and

18 WHEREAS, we are greatly indebted to the valiant and
19 hardworking paid and volunteer firefighters in the great State
20 of Alabama; now therefore,

21 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
22 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the Friday of Fire Prevention
23 Week each year shall be designated in Alabama as "Firefighter
24 Appreciation Day"; all Alabamians are encouraged to celebrate
25 this day to honor and reflect on the significant roles of
26 firefighters in the United States.

