

1 HR34  
2 165043-2  
3 By Representative Ford  
4 RFD:  
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 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF  
22          THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, 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.

