

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 14

By Atchley

A RESOLUTION to commend and congratulate Tim Baker,
Tennessee Fire Chiefs Association Volunteer
Fire Chief of the Year.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we should honor those individuals who, during the course of their duties, endeavor to protect the lives of their fellow citizens, braving great dangers and putting themselves at risk to save others; and

WHEREAS, Chief Tim Baker of Waldens Creek Volunteer Fire Department is one such individual, who was named the 2024 Volunteer Fire Chief of the Year by the Tennessee Fire Chiefs Association in recognition of his exemplary service; and

WHEREAS, reflecting leadership both in the fire service and in the community, the Volunteer Fire Chief of the Year award is the most prestigious honor a volunteer chief officer can receive; it recognizes excellence and challenges chief officers to continue their professional growth and development; and

WHEREAS, Chief Baker has been a volunteer firefighter for thirty-nine years, thirty of which have been as chief; he followed in the footsteps of his father, who was one of the original volunteers who helped start the Waldens Creek Volunteer Fire Department; and

WHEREAS, during his time with the department, he and his team have provided essential services, responding to not only fires, but also wrecks, water rescues, and technical rescues; and

WHEREAS, the need for his services and demands of the job have greatly increased during his tenure with the Waldens Creek Volunteer Fire Department; calls per year have increased from approximately sixty to, this year, nearly 800; and

WHEREAS, Chief Tim Baker has done an excellent job over the years of procuring grants and other funding for the department, money that goes toward obtaining the best apparatuses and equipment possible and providing stipends to volunteers; and

WHEREAS, highly regarded among those in his community, Chief Baker serves as administrator for the county's volunteer departments as well as chief of Sevier County Fire & Rescue; and

WHEREAS, Chief Tim Baker has been outstanding in the line of duty, and his recognition as Volunteer Fire Chief of the Year is a testament to his dedication and professionalism in the face of danger; and

WHEREAS, Chief Baker has given selflessly in support of his department, the fire service, and his community, and it is wholly fitting that we recognize him for his dedication to personal excellence and his receipt of this distinguished honor; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we commend and congratulate Chief Tim Baker of Waldens Creek Volunteer Fire Department upon being named the 2024 Volunteer Fire Chief of the Year by the Tennessee Fire Chiefs Association, extending our sincere gratitude for his devoted service.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.