

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 220

By Ramsey

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize the Blount County  
Rescue Squad for sixty years of public service.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should recognize certain milestones for those groups that dedicate their time and purpose to protecting and enriching the lives of the citizens in their communities; and

WHEREAS, one such exemplary institution is the Blount County Rescue Squad (BCRS), which has provided the people of Blount County with medical and emergency services for the past sixty years; and

WHEREAS, founded in 1957, the BCRS, a 501(c)(3) organization, is a superb entity consisting entirely of volunteers devoted to protecting their community. They receive no government funding and thus rely entirely on donations from business owners and citizens to fund their modest \$200,000 annual budget; and

WHEREAS, this volunteer force is comprised of men and women of all ages and backgrounds. There are members in their teenage years working in the Junior Squad, and there are also members who are of retirement age; they are business owners, doctors, college students, paramedics, advanced emergency medical technicians, emergency medical service workers, nursing students, firefighters, and emergency dispatchers; and

WHEREAS, dedicated to providing expert care and assistance, the members of BCRS go through vigorous training, including lessons on water operations, support operations, and search and rescue. Ever vigilant and eager to improve, the BCRS continues its training yearly so that it continues to meet the standards and requirements for state certification; and

WHEREAS, with that training, BCRS is able to help Blount County residents with water rescue and recovery, motor vehicle accidents, public assists, seasonal medical and rescue

coverage along United States Highway 129 or "the Dragon," medical rehabilitation and support for local fire departments, special operations in conjunction with other local and state agencies (such as the Gatlinburg fires), and transporting dialysis patients in four-wheel drive vehicles during snow emergencies; and

WHEREAS, BCRS answers nearly 3,000 calls to assist in those types of emergencies every year, providing a combined 32,000 hours of volunteer aid, which equates to saving Blount County nearly one-half million dollars each year; and

WHEREAS, the mission statement of BCRS reads, "One team, one mission ... that others may live."; and

WHEREAS, for sixty years, through the generous support of Blount County, BCRS has been able to adhere to that mission statement and keep the people of its community safe from harm and provide aid when harm does befall them; and

WHEREAS, the Blount County Rescue Squad's continued presence these sixty years is proof of its members' unending dedication to the people of Blount County and a true reflection of the volunteer spirit for which this State is known; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and recognize the Blount County Rescue Squad for sixty years of public service and extend to all its members, past and present, our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.