

ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 40

Introduced by McDonnell, 5.

WHEREAS, Harold A. Schaitberger began his firefighting career on August 1, 1966, at the age of twenty; and

WHEREAS, in 1970, Mr. Schaitberger started the organizing campaign that led to the establishment of the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) Local 2068 in Fairfax County, Virginia; and

WHEREAS, in 1976, Mr. Schaitberger began his twenty-four-year tenure as the legislative and political director to help build the political and lobbying program for the IAFF; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Schaitberger was elected General President of the IAFF in 2000 and was reelected an additional four times, for a total of twenty years as leader of the IAFF; and

WHEREAS, under the leadership of Mr. Schaitberger, the IAFF significantly expanded research into how cancer is killing fire fighters and developed protocols to reduce fire fighter exposure to deadly toxins, created the Wellness-Fitness Initiative and the Candidate Physical Ability Test, and provided assistance to the families of fire fighters who died as a result of the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001; and

WHEREAS, the IAFF Center of Excellence for Behavioral Health Treatment and Recovery provides life-changing and life-saving treatment to fire fighters, including dozens from Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, the work of Mr. Schaitberger and the IAFF resulted in the passage of the federal Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response grant program, which has provided jobs for more than fifteen thousand fire fighters across the country, and the Assistance to Firefighters Grant program, which has provided billions of dollars for equipment, turnouts, self-contained breathing

apparatuses, personal protective equipment, and training to departments across the nation; and

WHEREAS, the IAFF Disaster Relief Fund directly assisted Nebraska members following the catastrophic flooding in 2011 and 2020; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Schaitberger led the IAFF to create programs which promote diversity and welcome everyone into the association; and

WHEREAS, three hundred twenty thousand members of the International Association of Fire Fighters across North America, including one thousand three hundred members from Nebraska, have seen their safety, strength, and quality of life significantly improved under the leadership of Harold A. Schaitberger.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST SESSION:

1. That the Legislature recognizes General President Harold A. Schaitberger for his leadership of the International Association of Fire Fighters and fifty-five-year career.

2. That a copy of this resolution be sent to Harold A. Schaitberger.