

**Second Regular Session
Seventy-first General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. R18-1057.01 Cara Meeker x2044

SJR18-006

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Garcia and Hill,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Exum and Pabon,

Senate Committees

House Committees

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 18-006

101 **CONCERNING THE COMMEMORATION OF THE ONE-HUNDRED-YEAR**
102 **ANNIVERSARY OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE**
103 **FIGHTERS.**

1 WHEREAS, The International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF)
2 was founded 100 years ago on February 28, 1918, in Washington, D.C.,
3 when 36 delegates selected from 24 local organizations gathered to attend
4 the first IAFF convention; and

5 WHEREAS, The IAFF was established to meet the needs of the
6 emerging fire fighting profession, whose individuals had previously been
7 operating unpaid for their services until the 1850s, and without safety and
8 operational standards; and

9 WHEREAS, At the start of the IAFF, fire fighters worked 24-hour

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

1 shifts on continuous duty for very low wages, and the IAFF worked to
2 establish better working conditions, benefits, and fair wages for fire
3 fighters, and also created the Fire Fighters Fund to benefit the children of
4 fallen fire fighters; and

5 WHEREAS, The fire fighting profession became a dependable job
6 during the Great Depression of the 1930s, and during that time fire
7 fighters benefited from improvements in safety technology, including the
8 two-way radio, improved breathing equipment, and modern fire
9 apparatus; and

10 WHEREAS, In 1934, 16 years after its creation, the IAFF was
11 praised by the National Fire Protection Association, the United States
12 Department of Agriculture, and other groups for playing a crucial role in
13 fire reduction, education, and research; and

14 WHEREAS, When the United States joined the Allied Forces and
15 entered World War II, IAFF fire fighters willingly served their nation and
16 were uniquely equipped to do so; and

17 WHEREAS, The December 1941 issue of the IAFF's "Fire
18 Fighter" magazine declared to its members: "The fire fighters of the
19 Nation, in particular, have a distinct service to perform. Already well
20 organized, trained, and accustomed to discipline and the orderly
21 performance of their duties under any and all conditions, and with
22 complete disregard of any personal danger, fire fighters may be expected
23 to set an example of their fellow citizens in the trying days that lay
24 ahead."; and

25 WHEREAS, The IAFF helped coordinate members during World
26 War II to ensure fire fighters were available to help both at home and on
27 the front, and when fire fighters returned from war, the IAFF worked to
28 ensure members would return to their firehouses and that disabled fire
29 fighters could find positions in the fire service; and

30 WHEREAS, The creation and development of the Emergency
31 Medical Service (EMS) in the 1960s was ushered in with the support of
32 the IAFF, and today the IAFF Fire and EMS Operations/GIS Department
33 provides comprehensive information on fire departments and fire-based
34 EMS and promotes appropriate staffing and deployment for fire
35 suppression and effectiveness of fire-based emergency medical services
36 systems; and

1 WHEREAS, The IAFF has also stepped up to help during tragedy.
2 In addition to providing logistical support at Ground Zero after 9/11, the
3 IAFF sent stress management teams to aid grieving members and their
4 families, and in 2002 distributed more than \$96 million to the families of
5 fire fighters killed in the attacks; and

6 WHEREAS, In the aftermath of 9/11, IAFF leadership participated
7 in the creation of the Department of Homeland Security and ensured that
8 fire fighters would have prominent roles within the department; and

9 WHEREAS, The members of the IAFF are also on the front lines
10 of national emergency response, including hurricanes and natural
11 disasters, and contribute time and resources to international charity efforts
12 that better the lives of children and families; and

13 WHEREAS, Today, the IAFF continues to be the primary
14 advocate for providing fire fighters and paramedics with the tools they
15 need to perform their jobs and protect over 75% of North American
16 citizens; and

17 WHEREAS, The IAFF has been the leader in the advancement of
18 improving the service fire fighters provide and the livelihood of the
19 members who risk their lives to keep our communities safe; and

20 WHEREAS, It is fitting that we honor the IAFF for their
21 contributions and commemorate their 100th anniversary; now, therefore,

22 *Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Seventy-first General Assembly*
23 *of the State of Colorado, the House of Representatives concurring herein:*

24 That we, the Colorado General Assembly, congratulate the
25 International Association of Fire Fighters on their 100 years of service to
26 the brave men and women in the fire fighting profession and their
27 families.

28 *Be It Further Resolved*, That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent
29 to IAFF General President Harold A. Schaitberger, IAFF General
30 Secretary-Treasurer Edward Kelly, IAFF 9th District Vice-President Ray
31 R. Rahne, and CPFF President Michael Frainier.