**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE TIRELESS COMMITMENT OF THE LUGOFF FIRE DEPARTMENT TO PUBLIC SAFETY AND TO CELEBRATE ITS FIFTY YEARS OF DEDICATED PUBLIC SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY.

Whereas, originally formed as a project of the Lugoff Sertoma Club, the Lugoff Fire Department officially opened its doors in 1968 after receiving its first fire engine despite having nowhere to house it. The engine, a 1968 Chevrolet front-mount pumper, was stored in a two car garage before being moved to the garage and gas station of Albert Branham, an original charter member of the department; and

Whereas, after receiving a donation of land from Clyde Branham in 1970, the board of commissioners commissioned a two-story, two-bay station to be built on Highway 1. Upon completion, James Williams was hired as chief and firefighter and the engine was moved to the station; and

Whereas, having only one full-time firefighter, the department relied on volunteers who were notified by a siren that would ring throughout the community until a second firefighter was hired in 1972, allowing the staff to work a 24 hour on, 24 hour off shifts. The Department would add a third full-time firefighter in 1980 which would allow the staff to work a 24/72 shift; and

Whereas, the community’s continued growth meant extensive changes for the Lugoff Fire Department. In exchange for a second engine, a 1977 Ford FMC cab, the department would take over two more miles of coverage. Over the years the department would add three more fire engines, a 2,500 gallon tanker, an articulating boom ladder truck, an extended cab pickup truck, and a brush truck donated by the SC Forestry Commission; and

Whereas, the Lugoff Fire Department has grown tremendously since the 1990s, outgrowing the original building and finding a new home in a four-bay, two-story station. The staff has tripled and the volunteer staff has doubled, allowing for two new substations that are currently staffed by volunteers. The department also underwent an Insurance Service Office evaluation and has reached and maintained a rating of 3, indicating that the department does an exceptional job of protecting the Lugoff community; and

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives is forever indebted to the first responders who risk their lives to aid others and find it fitting to recognize the heroic dedication of the members Lugoff Fire Department as they reach the benchmark of five decades of outstanding service to the citizens of their community. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, recognize and honor the Lugoff Fire Department for its tireless commitment to public safety and celebrate its fifty years of dedicated public service to the community.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Chris Spitzer, Lugoff Fire Chief.

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