

**No. R-452. House concurrent resolution congratulating Honorary Shaftsbury Fire Chief Charles O. Becker on 70 years of exemplary service.**

(H.C.R.378)

Offered by: Representatives Morrissey of Bennington, Botzow of Pownal, Browning of Arlington, Corcoran of Bennington, Fields of Bennington, Keefe of Manchester, Miller of Shaftsbury, Morris of Bennington, and Sullivan of Dorset

Offered by: Senators Campion and Sears

Whereas, the Shaftsbury Fire Department's extraordinary longevity dates to the department's chartering in 1761, and Charlie Becker's 70-year tenure on this firefighting force is equally impressive, and

Whereas, in 1948, U.S. Army veteran Charlie Becker's new firefighting colleagues quickly recognized his leadership potential, and they soon elected him as the department's president, and

Whereas, a couple of years later, they selected him to serve as chief, and Charlie Becker retained this role for 16 years, ensuring that the department performed its duties dependably and effectively, and

Whereas, succeeding chiefs requested that Charlie Becker serve as assistant chief until they familiarized themselves with the post's responsibilities, and

Whereas, eventually, his Shaftsbury Fire Department colleagues named Charlie Becker as their honorary chief, a position he has retained, and

Whereas, in 1973–1974, Charlie Becker served as president of the Vermont State Firefighters' Association, and

Whereas, Charlie Becker completed a number of specialized firefighting courses, becoming an expert on the operation and maintenance of pumping equipment, and

Whereas, he was a cofounder of the Bennington County Mutual Aid program, and he established a pumper relay system extending from Shaftsbury to North Bennington in an era predating integrated radio systems, when the relay was exclusively vehicle-dependent, and

Whereas, among the many honors bestowed on Charlie Becker are his service as a Bennington Battle Day Parade judge; being named the 1985 Vermont State Firefighters Association's Fire Chief of the Year; designation as a WCAX-TV super senior; and in 2015, earning the distinction as Vermont's first Liberty Mutual Insurance Company Firemark Award winner, and

Whereas, in 2006, Charlie Becker and his wife, Marion, who died in 2007 and was a cofounder and past president of the Shaftsbury Fire Department Auxiliary, were jointly honored when the Shaftsbury Fire Station was dedicated in their honor, and

Whereas, in 2018, Charlie Becker is still actively serving as a Shaftsbury Fire Department pump operator, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates Honorary Shaftsbury Fire Chief Charles O. Becker on 70 years of exemplary service, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Charlie Becker in Shaftsbury.