

No. R-140. House concurrent resolution congratulating Joseph Wassick on completing 50 years of outstanding volunteer service at the Bennington Fire Department.

(H.C.R.99)

Offered by: Representatives Morrissey of Bennington, Corcoran of Bennington, Krawczyk of Bennington and Mook of Bennington

Offered by: Senators Hartwell and Sears

Whereas, although volunteer firefighters are often younger individuals, because the physical requirements of the position are demanding and stressful, there are some firefighters whose skill and stamina are sustained for many decades, and

Whereas, an outstanding example of a hale and hardy firefighter is Joseph (Joe) Wassick who in 2009 celebrates his 50th year of volunteer service as a member of the Bennington Fire Department, and

Whereas, he can trace his personal firefighting history to the era when Bennington's firefighting services were provided by several different companies, and

Whereas, the members of Eagle Hose Company No. 4 have long recognized Joe Wassick's great leadership abilities, and over the years they have elected him to the distinctive offices of company foreman, chief, and president, and most recently, his company's colleagues voted to elect him once again as their president, and

Whereas, Joe Wassick is a proud member of both the Vermont State and New England Firefighters' Associations, and

Whereas, he is active in the community beyond his firefighting activities,
and

Whereas, at the Bennington Lodge of Elks, Joe Wassick currently serves as
a lodge trustee, and his prior superb performance as the Elks' treasurer resulted
in his being honored as the lodge's officer of the year, and

Whereas, Joe Wassick now joins the special contingent of still active
Bennington firefighters, including Irv Gardner (63 years), Charles Sawyer (57
years), Francis (Butch) Corbett (56 years) Erwin Mattison (52 years), John
Stone (52 years), and Ormal Pierce (51 years) who for at least a half-century
have responded to the sound of a local fire department call, and

Whereas, they each have fond memories of their late colleagues, Richard
Hollister (58 years) and Ed Thibodeau (56 years), with whom they served for
many years, and

Whereas, Joe Wassick has been married to his wife, Jean, for 52 wonderful
years, and they have three children, Bob, Tom, and Mary, and seven
grandchildren, and

Whereas, Joe Wassick will be most deservedly honored at the Bennington
Fire Department's Annual Dinner to occur on Saturday, April 4, 2009, now
therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates Joseph Wassick on completing 50 years of outstanding volunteer service at the Bennington Fire Department, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Joseph Wassick in Bennington.