

No. R-16. House concurrent resolution honoring former Grafton volunteer fire chiefs Ed McWilliam and Eric Stevens for their outstanding community service.

(H.C.R.5)

Offered by: Representatives Partridge of Windham and Trieber of Rockingham

Offered by: Senators Balint and White

Whereas, volunteer firefighters, and especially their chiefs, are among Vermont's unsung heroes and deserve special recognition for their round-the-clock availability to perform potentially dangerous but critical public safety duties, and

Whereas, during the past half century, two of Grafton's well-respected volunteer fire chiefs have been Ed McWilliam and Eric Stevens, whose combined firefighting service exceeds 90 years, and

Whereas, Ed McWilliam became a Grafton volunteer firefighter in 1955 and served as the department's chief from 1969–1984, and

Whereas, after concluding his tenure as chief, Ed McWilliam was president of the fire department's governing organization, the Grafton Firefighters Association, and

Whereas, Ed McWilliam is a founding member of the FAST/Rescue Squad and has served as a town lister, and

Whereas, he is a long-time member of the Grafton Church Council, and

Whereas, Eric Stevens began his illustrious Grafton volunteer firefighting career in 1982, rising through the ranks and serving for eight years as chief, and

Whereas, his public safety work has also included service as a FAST/Rescue Squad EMT, and he remains a responder, and

Whereas, in another community role, Eric Stevens is a veteran member of the Grafton Planning Commission, and

Whereas, in a musical context, Eric Stevens displays his instrumental talents as a member of the Grafton Cornet Band and other ensembles, and

Whereas, the firefighters of the Grafton Volunteer Fire Department will honor Ed McWilliam and Eric Stevens at a community dinner to take place on Saturday, January 24, 2015, at the Grafton Elementary School, in recognition of their stalwart leadership, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors former Grafton volunteer fire chiefs Ed McWilliam and Eric Stevens for their outstanding community service, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Ed McWilliam and to Eric Stevens.