



SPONSOR: Sen. Ennis on behalf of all Senators & Rep. Carson  
Rep. Mitchell on behalf of all Representatives

DELAWARE STATE SENATE  
151st GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 60

HONORING THE DELAWARE VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER'S ASSOCIATION FOR A CENTURY OF  
DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO THE CITIZENS OF DELAWARE.

1 WHEREAS, during 2021, the Delaware Volunteer Firefighter's Association is marking one hundred years of  
2 service to the citizens of Delaware, having been established as "the Delaware State Volunteer Firemen's Association" on  
3 the 24th Day of February 1921, during a meeting at the Carlisle Fire Company in Milford; and

4 WHEREAS, this action followed several earlier efforts in the late 19th and early 20th centuries to establish a  
5 statewide volunteer firefighter's organization which had proved unsuccessful; and

6 WHEREAS, the organizational meeting of the new association was attended by delegates from the Robbins Hose  
7 Company of Dover, the Georgetown Fire Company, the Harrington Fire Company, the Laurel Fire Company, the Lewes  
8 Fire Company, the Volunteer Hose Company of Middletown, the Milton Fire Company, the Citizen's Hose Company of  
9 Smyrna, and the Carlisle Fire Company; and

10 WHEREAS, the assembled delegates adopted the following resolution: "Resolved, that we, the delegates of the  
11 Volunteer Fire Companies in the State of Delaware, in convention assembled in order to form a more perfect organization,  
12 establish harmony, insure prosperity and success, obtain and compile statistics concerning the practical working of various  
13 apparatus, cultivate fraternal fellowship among the companies and promote the best interest of the Volunteer Firemen of  
14 Delaware, do hereby form an organization to be known as the Delaware State Volunteer Firemen's Association"; and

15 WHEREAS, the association, which now includes all 60 volunteer fire companies in Delaware, has continued to  
16 hold annual conventions, with the exceptions of 1942 through 1944, when gatherings were restricted because of World War  
17 II to executive meetings, and 2020, when no annual convention was held because of the Coronavirus Pandemic; and

18 WHEREAS, there were several factors that caused volunteer firefighters to organize, among which were the  
19 natural bonds of fraternal feeling that firefighters shared, the need to exchange ideas and knowledge about the most current  
20 information on firefighting, the understanding that the establishment of a statewide organization could influence political  
21 change to bring about a better funding stream in support of fire companies, and the need to form a benevolent association to  
22 assist those members and their families who were injured or killed on the fire ground; and

23 WHEREAS, another important factor was the fact that firemen routinely traveled from state to state and would  
24 visit fire companies in places where their travels took them and some Delaware fire companies, particularly the Wilmington  
25 Fire Department, were particularly active in hosting large gatherings of firemen and traveling on return visits; and

26 WHEREAS, "Sister Company" relationships were established with fire companies in other cities, such as the old  
27 Friendship Fire Company No. 1 of Wilmington, which had a long-term relationship with Friendship No. 1 of Harrisburg,  
28 Pennsylvania, both companies having been chartered in the 1700's; and

29 WHEREAS, another factor in the formation of the association was the existence of long-running rivalries between  
30 fire companies, sometimes dating back for generations, and the need to channel those rivalries into friendly and  
31 constructive contests and demonstrations as a way of building pride and firefighting skills among member companies; and

32 WHEREAS, among the many activities of the association is the operation of a number of statewide subsidiary  
33 associations, including the Fire Chief's Association, the Emergency Medical Services Association, the Fire Police  
34 Association, the Ladies Auxiliary Association - LADVFA, and the Mutual Relief Association; and

35 WHEREAS, throughout its century of service, the Delaware Volunteer Firefighter's Association has lived up to its  
36 mission of "serving, promoting, advocating, coordinating, representing, and supporting the interests of the member  
37 Companies in the performance of providing community-based Fire, Rescue, Emergency Medical, and other emergency  
38 response-related services to the citizens of the State of Delaware."

39 NOW, THEREFORE:

40 BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the 151st General Assembly of the State of Delaware, the House of  
41 Representatives concurring therein, does hereby commend the entire membership of the Delaware Volunteer Firefighter's  
42 Association, past and present, for their outstanding service on behalf of the citizens of Delaware over the past century.

43 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members do hereby extend our heartfelt appreciation to the members of  
44 the Delaware Volunteer Firefighter's Association and extend sincere hopes that they will enjoy many more years of  
45 success.

46 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that suitable copies of this resolution be presented to the Delaware Volunteer  
47 Firefighter's Association and its member companies upon its passage.

#### SYNOPSIS

This Senate Concurrent Resolution honors the Delaware Volunteer Firefighter's Association for a century of service to the citizens of Delaware.

Author: Senator Ennis