

SENATE RESOLUTION

8602

By Senator Bateman

1 WHEREAS, In Washington state, we are always thankful for leaders
2 who bring communities together to form a brighter and more hopeful
3 Washington; and

4 WHEREAS, Steve Brooks began his career in emergency medical
5 service as a critical care flight paramedic spending 11 years in the
6 Fire Service in Tennessee before he and his wife Lee moved to Lacey,
7 Washington in 2005; and

8 WHEREAS, He was selected to serve as the Emergency Medical
9 Service Officer of Thurston County Fire Protection District 3, Lacey
10 (commonly referred to as Lacey Fire District 3) in 2005 before being
11 promoted to Fire Chief in 2012; and

12 WHEREAS, He was elected President of the Thurston County Fire
13 Chiefs in 2013; and

14 WHEREAS, He served as Operations Board Member for three key
15 Thurston County emergency services partners: Thurston County Special
16 Operations Rescue Team (SORT), Thurston County 911, and Thurston
17 County Medic One; and

18 WHEREAS, He built productive and constructive relationships
19 resulting in numerous policy updates and joint ventures within the
20 fire and emergency medical service areas; and

21 WHEREAS, His positive attitude spread from the Lacey Fire
22 District 3 to the City of Lacey and throughout Thurston County. This

1 cooperative and collaborative leadership style set a new standard for
2 interagency cooperation; and

3 WHEREAS, He received the Distinguished Leader Award by the
4 Thurston County Chamber of Commerce in 2017 for his work in the
5 larger Thurston County Community; and

6 WHEREAS, He was elected and served as the Washington Fire Chiefs
7 Legislative Committee Chair from 2019 to 2022; and

8 WHEREAS, He represented the Washington Fire Chiefs in the Western
9 Region Fire Chiefs Association from 2020 to 2022; and

10 WHEREAS, His leadership and personal example helped lead Lacey
11 Fire District 3 through the COVID-19 Pandemic, helping fire service
12 agencies across the state navigate one of the most difficult periods
13 in recent history; and

14 WHEREAS, He was elected and served as the Washington Fire Chiefs
15 President from 2022 to 2024; and

16 WHEREAS, He played an instrumental role in advocating for
17 firefighter issues, including legislative testimony and the
18 development of a Washington Fallen Firefighter Memorial; and

19 WHEREAS, His vision and leadership helped create the South Sound
20 Fire Fighter Academy, a collaborative effort with multiple South
21 Sound Fire Districts and Departments, to train firefighters across
22 Thurston County; and

23 WHEREAS, His fiscal management enabled the district's balanced
24 growth to meet the needs of a rapidly growing community while
25 improving the District's fire protecting rating for the
26 unincorporated areas; and

27 WHEREAS, During his tenure as Fire Chief, the District received
28 zero findings in all financial and accountability audits performed by
29 the Washington State Auditor's Office; and

30 WHEREAS, As Fire Chief, the District successfully came to terms
31 on five collective bargaining agreements ahead of deadline and
32 without mediation; and

33 WHEREAS, His leadership helped bring about a holistic approach to
34 personnel well-being, achieving advancements in firefighter health
35 and safety, and establishing a model for labor management relations
36 across the state; and

37 WHEREAS, He is known for his inspirational leadership and
38 unwavering commitment to public safety initiatives and the betterment
39 of fire service leaders across Washington; and

1 WHEREAS, He is set to retire in March 2025 and is widely
2 recognized for initiating a whole new culture of service and outreach
3 at Lacey Fire District 3; and

4 WHEREAS, Steve Brooks is a leader whose thoughtfulness,
5 dedication, and shared commitment to community safety are truly
6 noteworthy and deserve widespread public recognition;

7 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State Senate
8 recognize and honor Steve Brooks' contributions to the Washington
9 Fire Service and Emergency Medical Services for the past two decades.
10 Steve Brooks is the ideal public servant, and his character is an
11 example for future leaders to emulate.

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