

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2017-4649, by Representatives Buys and Van Werven

1           WHEREAS, Fire Chief Gary Russell has made the decision to retire  
2 after 44 years of service to the residents of Whatcom County Fire  
3 District No. 7; and

4           WHEREAS, During his 44 years of service, Chief Russell has been a  
5 Volunteer Firefighter, Volunteer Captain, Career Assistant Chief, and  
6 Chief of the Department for the last 31 years; and

7           WHEREAS, When Chief Russell became Fire Chief, he had no other  
8 career staff but the 80 volunteers to assist him; and

9           WHEREAS, Since that time, the organization has grown to 50 career  
10 employees and 75 volunteer employees; and

11           WHEREAS, Chief Russell has overseen the addition of Advanced Life  
12 Support to Fire District No. 7; and

13           WHEREAS, Chief Russell has watched the fire district expand to  
14 four staffed stations serving nearly 22,000 residents; and

15           WHEREAS, Chief Russell's passion and hard work led him to hold  
16 every office in the Whatcom County Association of Fire Chiefs over  
17 the years; and

18           WHEREAS, Throughout his 44 years of service, Chief Russell  
19 carried out his duties with honor and selflessness;

20           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives  
21 express its gratitude and appreciation for Chief Gary Russell's

1 service and encourage all residents of Whatcom County Fire District  
2 No. 7 to join in recognizing his many contributions to the community.

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