

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

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2 I hereby certify this to be a true and correct copy of
3 Resolution 4649 adopted by the House of Representatives
4 June 28, 2017
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Bernard Dean, Chief Clerk