

2024 -- H 8358

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF CHIEF JAMES G. AKERS OF THE  
MANVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Introduced By: Representatives Casey, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Ackerman, Shallcross  
Smith, Costantino, Chippendale, J. Brien, Ajello, and Fellela

Date Introduced: June 12, 2024

Referred To: House read and passed

1           WHEREAS, It is with deep sadness that this House has learned of the passing of Chief  
2 James G. "Jim" Akers of the Manville Fire Department. He was the beloved husband of Susan  
3 Akers for more than 42 years; and

4           WHEREAS, Chief Akers was born in Pawtucket, the son of Stasha Akers and the late  
5 James Lee Akers. He was a lifelong resident of Manville, a 1975 graduate of Lincoln High  
6 School, and attained a degree in chemical technology from Rhode Island Junior College. Prior to  
7 his firefighting career, Chief Akers worked at Colby Glass and Ernie's Auto Repair; and

8           WHEREAS, Beginning in 1974, Chief Akers fulfilled his lifelong calling and began his  
9 distinguished nearly 50-year firefighting and public service career when he accepted a position to  
10 serve as an emergency medical technician. He graduated from the Rhode Island Fire Academy  
11 Class of 1985, and thanks to his tireless work ethic and strong leadership skills, he steadily rose  
12 through the ranks of the Manville Fire Department, culminating with his exemplary service as the  
13 Chief of the Fire Department from 1994 to 2001; and

14           WHEREAS, Even after retiring, Chief Akers continued his service to the department he  
15 loved, assuming the position of Fire Warden, a position he held until his passing. He also served  
16 the Town of Lincoln as a member of the Lincoln Rescue for many years, and continued his  
17 education at the Community College of Rhode Island, earning a Licensed Practical Nurse degree,  
18 and training and certification as a phlebotomist; and

19           WHEREAS, Chief Akers was a member of the Rhode Island Fire Chiefs Association, the

1 New England Fire Chief's Association, and the Rhode Island Volunteer Firefighters. He was a  
2 member of the Manville Sportsmen's Club and loved all things outdoors including camping,  
3 fishing, and hunting. He also enjoyed collecting coins and stamps, was a member of the Rhode  
4 Island Numismatic Society, and was known for his love of all things "Dunkin" especially their  
5 iced coffees; and

6 WHEREAS, In addition to his wife, Susan and mother, Stasha, Chief Akers leaves  
7 behind his daughter, Amanda Nobile and his grandchildren, Cecilia, Juliet and Jeffrey Nobile. He  
8 was the brother of Patricia Shirley and her late husband, David Shirley, and is also survived by  
9 Susan's family, Linda and Marc Cotnoir, and several nieces and nephews and their families. He  
10 was the son-in-law of the late Woonsocket Fire Department Deputy Chief Ralph W. St. Germain,  
11 and his wife, Constance St. Germain; and

12 WHEREAS, Chief Akers was a shining beacon of light and joy in the lives of his loved  
13 ones and many friends. He will long be remembered for his distinguished career of public service  
14 to the community he loved, and for being a truly wonderful family man and friend to many; now,  
15 therefore be it

16 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby  
17 expresses its condolences on the passing of Chief James G. "Jim" Akers; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
19 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Mrs. Susan Akers and Family.

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