

2023 -- H 5651

LC001361

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2023

HOUSE RESOLUTION

HONORING LINCOLN FIRE CHIEF RICHARD ANDREWS FOR MORE THAN FIFTY
YEARS OF DEVOTED AND DEDICATED SERVICE

Introduced By: Representatives Shallcross Smith, Costantino, Ackerman, Casey,
Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale, Serpa, Lima, and Tanzi

Date Introduced: February 16, 2023

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, For retired Lincoln Fire Chief Richard Andrews, public service and a career
2 in fire safety were a family tradition. His father, the late Earl Andrews, Sr., was the Fire Chief of
3 Saylesville until 1984, and inspired Richard to begin a career in fire safety. His two brothers were
4 also volunteer firemen, and his late brother, Bruce Andrews, was the Deputy Fire Chief in
5 Saylesville. Chief Andrews's son, Michael, currently serves as the Fire Chief in Wilbraham,
6 Massachusetts; and

7 WHEREAS, Chief Richard Andrews began his distinguished public service career in
8 1970, at the young age of sixteen, serving as a volunteer firefighter in Saylesville. He later
9 proceeded to serve as a firefighter for nineteen years, rising to the rank of Captain in 1989. In
10 2008, he was promoted to the position of Chief; and

11 WHEREAS, During his time as Chief, Mr. Andrews, thanks to his strong leadership
12 skills and tireless work ethic, was able to facilitate the consolidation of the Saylesville and Albion
13 Fire Districts into one unified district, the Lincoln Fire District, something that had been
14 attempted, without success, since the 1980s. Accomplishing this task allowed the new
15 consolidated district to pool funds and stabilize the tax rate for all residents; and

16 WHEREAS, Chief Andrews led his department through the most difficult times of the
17 COVID-19 pandemic, a period during which personnel were constantly forced to miss work due
18 to illness or out of fear of bringing the virus to their families and loved ones. Thanks to his
19 excellent communication skills and administrative acumen, his department was able to come out

1 of the pandemic in strong shape; and

2 WHEREAS, Chief Andrews, a lifelong Lincoln resident, stated that he remembers back
3 in 1970, when the fire district would get approximately 70 calls a year, while today it gets
4 approximately 3,300 a year. Most recently, he and his team were faced with the devastating fire
5 that hit the Knock On Wood Furniture store, and successfully put out the fire and made sure that
6 it did not spread to any homes; and

7 WHEREAS, Michael Allen, the Fire Commission Chairperson, and someone who
8 volunteered alongside Chief Andrews as a teenager, described the legacy of Chief Andrews best
9 when he stated that he has “the highest level of respect for Andrews”, “he has a level head and an
10 even temper, that’s hard to find”, and “It breaks my heart that he left, but he made sure that this
11 department was up to snuff. He gave back to the community. He is a good man”; now, therefore
12 be it

13 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
14 congratulates Lincoln Fire Chief Richard Andrews on his retirement and thanks him for his more
15 than fifty years of exemplary public service. We furthermore wish him a most happy retirement
16 with his wife Paula, and his two children, two step-children, and nine grandchildren. We also
17 wish him continued success in all of his future endeavors; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authored and directed to
19 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Fire Chief Richard Andrews.

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