

House Resolution 1751

By: Representatives Wilkinson of the 52nd, Willard of the 51st, Dollar of the 45th, and Jacobs of the 80th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending the public service of Chief Jack McElfish upon his retirement;
2 and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Sandy Springs Fire Chief Jack McElfish has enjoyed and will be retiring from
4 a 51 year career in fire/rescue service in October, 2014; and

5 WHEREAS, Chief McElfish began his career in the United States Air Force, serving as a
6 crash rescue firefighter; and

7 WHEREAS, he rose through the ranks, later serving 33 years as a Fire Chief, seven of which
8 were with the City of Sandy Springs; Chief McElfish has served as Senior Career Officer and
9 Station Commander for the Burtonsville Fire Department, Maryland; Fire Chief,
10 Wallingford, Connecticut; Fire Chief, Clayton County, Georgia; Fire Chief and Director of
11 Fire and Emergency Service, Richmond, Virginia; and Fire Chief and Director of Fire and
12 Emergency Services, Gwinnett County, Georgia; and

13 WHEREAS, in addition to department oversight, Chief McElfish has influenced many
14 careers through teaching. He served as an adjunct faculty member with the National Fire
15 Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland, and as an instructor with the University of New Haven,
16 Waterbury State Technical College, and Connecticut State Fire School; he also served as a
17 Fire Training Coordinator for the County of Montgomery in Pennsylvania; and

18 WHEREAS, the City of Sandy Springs hired Chief McElfish in July, 2006, and tasked him
19 with creating a full service Fire and Rescue Department that was to be operational by January
20 1, 2007; and

21 WHEREAS, over the past seven years, the Fire Department has received numerous awards,
22 including the "Crown Community" Award by the *American City & County* magazine in

23 recognition of the start-up and the department's innovative Emergency Medical Services
24 Program, and recognition for its "Heart Safe" program; and

25 WHEREAS, the department also received the "Heart Safe Community Award" presented by
26 the International Association of Fire Chiefs; Chief McElfish has been presented with many
27 personal awards, including the 2011 "Mission Award" from the American Heart Association;
28 the 2010 "Alan Brunacini Fire Service Executive Safety Award"; and designation as "Fire
29 Chief of the Year" in 2008, 2009, and 2010.

30 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
31 the members of this body recognize and commend the many years of outstanding public
32 service by Chief Jack McElfish and wish him continued good health and good fortune in his
33 retirement.

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
35 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Chief Jack McElfish.