

By: Morrison

H.R. No. 129

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The City of Victoria is celebrating the 150th
2 anniversary of the Victoria Fire Department with an open house on
3 November 6, 2021; and

4 WHEREAS, In 1869, in response to several local fires, a group
5 of residents formed a bucket brigade and Victoria Fire Company
6 No. 1, a volunteer group that disbanded after a few months; the City
7 of Victoria formally authorized the formation of a downtown engine
8 house on June 5, 1870; the following year, C. R. Alden, a tradesman
9 with experience in fire organizations, laid the foundation for the
10 current department, and a used hand pumper was purchased from
11 Mobile, Alabama, to aid in fire-suppression efforts; and

12 WHEREAS, In the decades that followed, several other fire
13 response groups arose within the community; Fire Company No. 1
14 formed in 1882, Hook & Ladder Company No. 2 in 1882-1883,
15 Protection Hose Company No. 3 in 1885, and Mechanic's Hose Company
16 No. 4 in 1893; over time, the department continued to modernize,
17 and in 1910, the city hired its first salaried firefighters; by
18 1930, the department was fully motorized with two combination
19 pumper and hose trucks, a straight-hose truck, and a chief's car,
20 and in 1931 Salvage Corps Company No. 5 was established; the
21 department consolidated with the City of Victoria emergency medical
22 services into one organization in 1995; and

23 WHEREAS, Under the direction of fire chief Tracy Fox, the
24 present-day Victoria FD answers approximately 11,000 service

1 requests each year and now includes teams for hazardous materials
2 response, technical rescue, and water rescue; with strong ties to
3 the community, the department also participates in a number of
4 safety and educational programs for area residents, and in 2018 it
5 was recognized for best practices by the Texas Fire Chiefs
6 Association; and

7 WHEREAS, For 150 years, the courageous firefighters of the
8 Victoria Fire Department have devoted themselves to protecting the
9 lives and property of their fellow citizens, and this notable
10 milestone represents a fitting opportunity to recognize their vital
11 contributions to the community; now, therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas
13 Legislature, 3rd Called Session, hereby commemorate the 150th
14 anniversary of the Victoria Fire Department and extend to its
15 members sincere best wishes for continued success with their
16 important work; and, be it further

17 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
18 prepared for the department as an expression of high regard by the
19 Texas House of Representatives.