

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1818

A RESOLUTION congratulating and commending Paul Buckner upon his retirement after 60 years of public service in the fire department of Baxter Springs, Kansas.

WHEREAS, Mr. Buckner is a lifelong resident of Baxter Springs, Kansas. He served with honor in the United States Marines Corps during World War II and bravely fought for his country in the invasion of Tarawa. The Tarawa islets were in a strategic location, serving as a gateway for the United States' drive through the central Pacific towards the Philippines. There the Japanese airstrip was defended by 4,700 troops dug into pillboxes and bunkers, protected by wires and mines. The Marines of the 2nd Division fought valiantly to dislodge the enemy, resulting in one of the bloodiest battles in Marine history. The Marine casualties totaled nearly 3,000, while just 17 of the 4,700 Japanese troops survived; and

WHEREAS, Paul and his wife, Evelyn, were married in 1945; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Buckner joined the Baxter Springs Volunteer Fire Department in 1947 and has served at various different ranks over the years. Paul went on to become Assistant Chief and served in that position for many years under numerous Fire Chiefs; and

WHEREAS, Over the last 60 years, Mr. Buckner has devoted countless hours to the department. In addition to his regular duties, Paul has exhibited his dedication by helping to build and finish additions to the station, making repairs to the department's equipment, and assisting on many other projects; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Buckner continues to be a dedicated and vital member of the department by not only continuing to respond to emergency calls, but also by attending training sessions and other department activities. His colleagues continue to depend on his experience and guidance as the department Safety Officer. Now, therefore,

*Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas:* That we congratulate and commend Paul Buckner upon his retirement from the Baxter Springs Volunteer Fire Department and honor him for his quiet dedication, unswerving loyalty, and lifetime of service to his community; and

*Be it further resolved:* That the Secretary of the Senate provide an enrolled copy of this resolution to Senator Umbarger; Paul Buckner, 2818 Gaineswood Ave., Baxter Springs, KS 66173; Baxter Springs Fire Department, 121 W. 11th Street, Baxter Springs, KS 66173; and Baxter Springs City Hall, 1445 Military, Baxter Springs, KS 66173.

Senate Resolution No. 1818 was sponsored by Senator Dwayne Umbarger.

I hereby certify that the above RESOLUTION originated in the SENATE, and was adopted by that body

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*President of the Senate.*

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*Secretary of the Senate.*