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## **HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 639**

Offered February 11, 2025

Commending Herbert Jesse Yeatts.

Patrons—Phillips and Marshall; Senator: Mulchi

WHEREAS, for 50 years, Herbert Jesse Yeatts has safeguarded lives and property in Pittsylvania County as a member of the Gretna Fire and Rescue squad; and

WHEREAS, in his career with Gretna Fire and Rescue, Jesse Yeatts has worked tirelessly to serve and protect his community, responding to more than 20,000 calls over his tenure with the department; and

WHEREAS, Jesse Yeatts has served as a mentor to many fellow firefighters and supported the operations of Gretna Fire and Rescue in various leadership capacities, including as captain and assistant chief; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of his service, Jesse Yeatts was named a life member of the Gretna Volunteer Fire Department in 1997 and of the Gretna Rescue Squad in 1998, as well as Firefighter of the Year on multiple occasions; and

WHEREAS, Jesse Yeatts has inspired his daughters and many of his other family members to serve with Gretna Fire and Rescue, establishing a Yeatts family legacy of service in Pittsylvania county that will be carried on for generations to come; and

WHEREAS, Jesse Yeatts' unwavering commitment to the well-being of others led him to help with disaster relief in Mississippi following Hurricane Katrina and to serve with the Wildland Strike Force Team in several states; and

WHEREAS, at 82 years of age, Jesse Yeatts remains as dedicated to fighting fires and helping his community as he has ever been, inspiring countless others to follow his lead and answer the call to serve; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend Herbert Jesse Yeatts on the occasion of his 50th anniversary of service with the Gretna Volunteer Fire and Rescue squad; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Herbert Jesse Yeatts as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for his contributions to Pittsylvania County and the Commonwealth.