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HOUSE RESOLUTION 263
By Jones U (Shel)

A RESOLUTION to recognize the Chester Anderson Fire Training Academy of Memphis.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause in its deliberations to recognize those facilities that greatly assist in the efficient and effective training of our state's firefighting personnel; and

WHEREAS, the construction and expansion of such training facilities is vital to the efficacy of the state's emergency services and greatly enhances their ability to serve the people of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the new Chester Anderson Fire Training Academy of Memphis is one such noteworthy facility; and

WHEREAS, in 1999, the Memphis City Council approved the necessary \$11,600,000 to construct the academy as a part of the Capital Improvement Program; and

WHEREAS, after awarding the contract for facility construction to the Grinder Building Corporation in August, 2000, the City of Memphis held a community groundbreaking ceremony in September, 2000; and

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WHEREAS, upon completion and acceptance of the academy in January 2002, the City of Memphis held a Grand Opening Ceremony for the new training facility on February 13-16, 2002; and

WHEREAS, the four-day celebration included Ribbon Cutting and Dedication on Executive Day on February 13th; Fire Department Recognition Day on February 14th; Fire Training Demonstration Day on February 15th; and Family and Citizens' Day on February 16th; and

WHEREAS, numerous fire departments and city-county governments from six states were invited to take part in the festivities; officials from the National Fire Academy, the National Fire Administration, the Federal Emergency Management Agency; numerous appointed and elected officials; and other governmental agencies focused on firefighting were also invited; and

WHEREAS, named in honor of Mr. Chester Anderson, the Director of Fire Services for the City of Memphis and thirty-year veteran of the Memphis Fire Department, this outstanding training academy incorporates the principles of integrity and excellence in service that are readily evident throughout Mr. Anderson's illustrious firefighting career; and

WHEREAS, the Chester Anderson Fire Fighting Academy offers the latest in training technology, state-of-the-art equipment and a full spectrum of educational courses for firefighting personnel; and

WHEREAS, the academy's full service campus features an Academy Building, complete with classrooms; facilities to provide practical experience, technical knowledge and skills proficiency, as well as hands-on equipment training; and

WHEREAS, the Chester Anderson Academy contains a drill tower; a hazardous material training pad; an urban search and rescue training area; fueling area; disaster recovery facilities and a burn building; and

WHEREAS, the academy's stringent curriculum of firefighting procedures and techniques is comprehensive and challenging and will produce certified professionals who are well trained in applicable state and national standards; and

WHEREAS, the tragic events of September 11, 2001, brought into sudden sharp focus our dependence upon national, state and local firefighters and the importance of providing the best training possible for these brave men and women; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we recognize the Chester Anderson Fire Training Academy of Memphis and acknowledge its essential role in the preparedness of the brave firefighters that protect the people of the State of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.