WHEREAS, the founders of the International Association of Fire Fighters set out in 1918 to “organize all fire fighters…foster a higher degree of skill and efficiency…improve and protect members’ health and welfare establish safety standards … cultivate friendship and fellowship… provide proper compensation for work performed… and improve social and economic conditions”; and

WHEREAS, a century ago, when our union’s forefathers worked seven days a week and had few benefits or safety protections, the IAFF was formed by fire fighters for fire fighters to become their voice and the protector of the protectors; and

WHEREAS, over the past 100 years, this union has worked at every level to fulfill the vision of our founders and today, after a century of progress through unity, we are the driving force behind nearly every advance in the fire and emergency services; and

WHEREAS, with headquarters in Washington, DC, and Ottawa, Ontario, the IAFF today represents more than 310,000 full-time professional fire fighters and paramedics in more than 3,300 affiliates, protecting more than 85 percent of the population in communities throughout the United States and Canada; and

WHEREAS, the IAFF is also one of the most effective lobbying organizations in both countries and our gold and black brand is sought at every level of politics – national, state/provincial and local; and

WHEREAS, our union’s strength and solidarity has enabled our members and affiliates to continue to thrive and grow even during the toughest of times, while also ensuring that this noble profession remains as safe as it can be for the greatest membership in the world; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the delegates assembled at the 54th Convention of the IAFF recognize the courage and boldness of those great union leaders who came before us; and be it further

RESOLVED, That as we celebrate this 100th anniversary of the IAFF, we all commit to continuing to work, as we have in the past, to advance this great profession and lead our union and members into another century of progress through the next 100 years.

Submitted by: IAFF Executive Board
Cost Estimate: None
COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:
CONVENTION ACTION: