



PROCLAMATION OF APPRECIATION

WHEREAS, Douglas Welde joined the Petersburg Volunteer Fire Department on February 6, 1969 upon his return to Petersburg after completing his active duty enlistment in the United States Air Force, including a year at Phan Rang Air Base, Republic of South Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, he followed in the footsteps and example of his father, Kenneth Welde, who was a long-time member of the PVFD and also a long-time Chief of the Department; and

WHEREAS, Doug started as a fire fighter and steadily rose through the ranks serving as Assistant Chief for almost 30 years and Chief for nearly 6 years – both positions of immense responsibility – before retiring on March 6, 2019; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure Doug also served as an Emergency Medical Technician and Defibrillator Technician for 26 years; and

WHEREAS, Doug took his responsibilities to heart and understood the fire related liabilities to ensure the safety and welfare of the citizens, the fire protection of the homes and businesses, and the overall economic infrastructure of the community – to include local drills and classes, continued outside education, pre-planning, proper equipment purchase, and taking command of the tactical fire scene whenever necessary; and

WHEREAS, as Chief, Doug was instrumental in helping lead PVFD from a single purpose Department to a fully integrated Department that saves lives not only from fire emergencies, but also medical and search and rescue emergencies; and

WHEREAS, in his capacity as the City Fire Marshall, Doug consistently worked to improve fire response capabilities in order to lower the ISO rating of the community and significantly reduce fire insurance costs; and

WHEREAS, Doug successfully drove the efforts to provide an opportunity for businesses to finance and install sprinkler systems to help prevent the loss of the businesses, which are the financial basis of the community; and

WHEREAS, Doug constantly promoted PVFD activities within the community, and also outside the community as an active member of the Alaska Fire Chiefs Association; and

WHEREAS, Doug has consistently put his responsibilities above his own priorities and undoubtedly during his service there were many sleepless nights, constant worries about catastrophic fires, and all-hour responses - all supported by an understanding family, especially by his wife, Naomi.

THEREFORE, I, Mark Jensen, Petersburg's Borough Mayor, on behalf of our community do hereby express sincere appreciation and gratitude to Chief Welde for over 50 years of dedicated service to Petersburg and its citizens. We wish Doug and his family the very best in retirement and many exciting moments while reeling in the wily king salmon.

Mark Jensen, Mayor
April 15, 2019