

# PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS,** *International Firefighters Day was established in 1999 to remember firefighters worldwide lost in the line of duty protecting the safety of us all; and*

**WHEREAS,** *firefighters dedicate their lives with extraordinary courage in situations that oftentimes put them in harm's way in order to protect the lives and property of others; and*

**WHEREAS,** *Salem's Fire Department was formed as the Alert Hook and Ladder in 1857, fighting fires with leather buckets, ladders, and a few basic tools; and*

**WHEREAS,** *two firefighters have lost their lives in the line of duty in the past 164 years the Salem Fire Department has been active. Floyd McMullen, a Willamette University student, was a "sleeper" (volunteer) firefighter at the East Salem Firehouse. He perished in the State Capitol fire of 1935. Deputy Fire Marshal George Ventura suffered a fatal heart attack while on duty in 1986; and*

**WHEREAS,** *the City of Salem honors its current and past firefighters who embody courage and conviction and have put their lives on the line for those in our community; and*

**NOW, THEREFORE,** *I, Chuck Bennett, Mayor of the City of Salem, do hereby proclaim May 4, 2021, as*

## INTERNATIONAL FIREFIGHTERS DAY

*and encourage residents to recognize and appreciate the selfless dedication of Salem's firefighters.*

*DATED this twenty-sixth day of April 2021.*



---

Chuck Bennett  
Mayor