



Scott Cyrway
Senator, District 16

132nd MAINE SENATE

3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Testimony of Senator Scott Cyrway

“LD 28 Resolve, to Rename the Twin Rivers Fire Academy in Fairfield the Duane Bickford Fire Academy”

Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Hasenfus, and my fellow members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee.

My name is Senator Scott Cyrway, and I represent district 16; Albion, Fairfield, Oakland, Waterville, and Winslow.

I am proud to present this bill, Resolve, to Rename the Twin Rivers Fire Academy in Fairfield the Duane Bickford Fire Academy.

Duane Bickford began his Firefighting career as a Volunteer Fire Fighter in 1987. In 2000, he was promoted to Fire Chief. After 23 years as Chief, Bickford retired in 2023. In November of 2024, he died at the age of 66.

Duane Bickford will always be remembered for the dedication he gave to his community as a firefighter. I will always remember what he told me “I’ve never been one for speaking, but my heart has always been in this.” Anyone who has interacted with him knows this to be true.

An example of this is in Chief Bickford’s pursuit of better training and training infrastructure in the state of Maine. This labor of love produced the Training Center in Fairfield we are discussing today. The planning center began in 2013, and in 2023 a Ribbon cutting ceremony marked the opening of the 500,000 dollar project. This training center does not simply serve the town of Fairfield, but it serves all Central Maine, filling a need for training centers in the region. This building, a great capstone to Chief Bickford’s life work saves departments from driving to Bangor or southern Maine for training and provides a place for all to improve their skills.

In addition to building the training center, Chief Bickford took time to train both new and old recruits personally at Kennebec Valley Community College. He also taught several youth Firefighter recruitment classes.

He was a true leader and cared for his department's men and reputation. In my interactions with Chief Bickford, he was always pleasant to talk to and shared pride for his department and its personnel.

Chief Bickford dedicated his life to fire fighting in Maine. The Training Center in Fairfield, he helped build, should bear his name so that we remember the work he did for our State. I ask you to accept a request for amendment by Shawn Esler, State Fire Marshall, to make the name The Duane Bickford Fire Training Facility. With that amendment, I ask you to vote Ought to Pass.

Thank you for your time.