

job requirements and conduct a “deep reference check.”

“You’re looking for somebody who understands the law, but you’re looking for somebody who has the personality to command but also to lead. I think there is a bit of a difference. You can be a good commander, but you might not be a good leader,” Hurd said. “Hopefully, I’ll be able to find somebody with similar management skills and personality.”

At least two members of the department are interested in the position, according to people familiar with their thinking. Lt. Paul Doucette, currently second in the department’s chain of command, and Detective Sgt. David S. Rowland, the third highest ranking officer in the department, have expressed interest, sources said.

Hurd said he doesn’t expect any long-term negative impact from the internal search. “If you’re goal is to stay and work and be a leader in Bennington then you’re going to have to take some disappointment, because there’s only going to be one chief. I’m prepared for that, and I think I’ll be able to deal with it.”

REMEMBERING CHIEF RALPH JACKMAN

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a dedicated public servant in Vermont who passed away earlier this month.

Ralph Jackman joined the Vergennes Volunteer Fire Department in 1947, and took over the helm as chief of the department in 1954. Some 55 years later, in November 2009, he stepped down from his post—widely recognized as one of the longest serving fire chiefs in the Nation.

During his time as the chief, Jackman saw many changes at the fire department. The department grew immensely—doubling the number of firefighters and tripling the number of vehicles. He oversaw the establishment of a cadet program and the construction of a new fire station. He also found time for a variety of community service activities, including serving as the two-time president of the Vermont State Firefighters Association. Throughout his entire career, Jackman was in the thick of the action, responding to emergency calls and managing the volunteer department’s operations.

Chief Jackman’s family had firefighting in its blood. Jackman’s twin brother Fred, who passed away in 2008, was a member of the Bristol Fire Department for 62 years, including 14 years as that department’s chief. Chief Jackman’s wife, as well as his five daughters, helped the Vergennes Volunteer Fire Department throughout his career. And eight of Chief Jackman’s grandchildren are now firefighters.

My wife, Marcelle, and I wish to express our deepest condolences to Chief Jackman’s wife, Myrle Jackman, his immediate family and his extended family in the fire service community throughout Vermont. They are rightly proud of Chief Jackman’s long and distinguished career and the legacy he has left behind in Vergennes and Vermont.

I ask unanimous consent that a story from The Burlington Free Press about

Chief Jackman’s storied career be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Burlington Free Press, Jan. 7, 2010]

LAST CALL FOR CHIEF JACKMAN: HUNDREDS ATTEND FUNERAL

(By Matt Sutkoski)

VERGENNES.—Ralph Jackman made his last fire call Wednesday.

Jackman was chief of the Vergennes Fire Department from 1954 until November—55 years. He died Saturday at the age of 85. Services were held for him Wednesday morning.

Family, friends and more than 200 firefighters crowded into St. Peter’s Catholic Church for the services. The firefighters came from surrounding towns and distant communities—Addison, Whiting, Bristol, Cabot, Burlington, Shrewsbury, East Montpelier, even Nashua, N.H.

At the service, Mark Bouvier of the Bristol Fire Department said Jackman’s whole family helped with the chief’s decades-long career. He had five daughters, and when they were growing up and a fire call came into the Jackman home in the middle of the night, everyone sprang into action. One daughter would answer the phone, others would make sure his gear was ready for him; another would open the garage door. “He needed all his daughters to get ready for fire calls,” Bouvier said.

Firefighting runs in the Jackman family blood. His twin brother Fred, who died in 2008, was a member of the Bristol Fire Department for 62 years and was chief for 14 of those years. Eight of Ralph Jackman’s grandchildren are firefighters.

Jackman was one of the nation’s longest serving fire chiefs, and he was often in the forefront of Vermont firefighting innovations, Bouvier said. Under Jackman, the Vergennes Fire Department was the first to acquire a hose-reel truck and the first to establish a cadet program.

As great a contribution Jackman made to the Vergennes Fire Department, he thought of all the city’s residents, Bouvier said. He’d give fuel oil to needy residents during the time he owned a fuel business. Somebody else might get a warm coat from him, and he was heavily involved in a variety of charitable organizations until the end of his life, Bouvier said.

The Rev. Yvon Royer, officiating at the Mass, also took note of Jackman’s lifelong contributions. “He was a true icon of the community. It was a respect that was earned,” Royer said.

After the service, with an honor guard of firefighters saluting, Jackman’s American flag-draped coffin was loaded onto the back of Vergennes Fire Pumper Truck 316. Led by a contingent of Vergennes firefighters and followed by Jackman’s family and friends, the truck bearing the coffin rolled slowly up Maple Street, turned right on Main, then right again onto Green Street to the Vergennes fire station.

The fire truck, parked in front of the station, then blasted its horn three times to ceremonially mark Jackman’s final alarm.

2010 NATIONAL AMBASSADOR FOR YOUNG PEOPLE’S LITERATURE

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I am pleased that this month Katherine Paterson of Barre, VT, has been named the 2010 National Ambassador for Young People’s Literature. Her books,

which include “A Bridge to Terabithia,” “Jacob Have I Loved,” and “Bread and Roses Too,” motivate young readers to become excited about reading and understand struggles and joy in their own lives. She has long inspired readers in Vermont and across the country to make reading a daily part of their lives.

Reading at a young age can have a dramatic impact on a child’s ability to succeed and learn more than can be taught in a classroom. In my home town of Montpelier, VT, the Kellogg-Hubbard Library serves as the center of the community to many local children. When I am home, I love seeing children flood the library after school and borrow new and exciting books or choose to reread old favorites.

Despite what I witness at my local Vermont library, reading rates among children today are on the decline, which makes Ms. Paterson’s role as National Ambassador even more crucial as she tours the country to attract new, young readers. I cannot think of a better suited choice for this challenging role, and I congratulate her on her appointment. On a personal note, Marcelle and I have valued our years of friendship with Katherine and John Paterson.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a January 6, 2010, Washington Post article about this year’s National Ambassador for Young People’s Literature.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Washington Post, Jan. 6, 2010]

KATHERINE PATERSON NAMED NATIONAL AMBASSADOR FOR YOUNG PEOPLE’S LITERATURE

(By David Montgomery)

The Stinky Cheese Man has been replaced by the Queen of Terabithia.

They have nothing in common, these two, and yet everything in common. Tuesday morning in the Library of Congress, with elementary school children as witnesses, the ceremony of succession was accomplished and a proud nation with so-so reading habits got a new National Ambassador for Young People’s Literature.

She is Katherine Paterson, the award-winning author of more than 30 books, probably best-known for “Bridge to Terabithia,” which was published and Newbery-Medaled in the late 1970s but had its longest run on the bestseller lists after release of the 2007 movie.

The outgoing ambassador wisecracked about all the imaginary diplomatic perks he would be giving up. He is Jon Scieszka, the award-winning author of more than three dozen illustrated books and chapter books and the Web-savvy creator of an online kid empire—but perhaps best known for his 1992 opus, “The Stinky Cheese Man and Other Fairly Stupid Fairy Tales.”

It’s hard to imagine two more different writers being asked to perform the same mission. Scieszka was the first kid-lit ambassador, serving the two-year term.

“We couldn’t be more different,” said Scieszka, 55. “Sometimes you want to read ‘Bridge to Terabithia’ and deal with that, sometimes you’re feeling like a ‘Knucklehead’ and ‘Stinky Cheese Man.’ Kids are willing to try all of it.”

“If you’re trying to catch young readers, you have to fish with the right bait,” said