

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending the volunteers of the Merrick Fire Department upon the occasion of being recognized as Merrick Herald's People of the Year 2012

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize that the quality and character of life in the communities across New York State are reflective of the concerned and dedicated efforts of those individuals who would devote themselves to the welfare of the community and its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend the volunteers of the Merrick Fire Department upon the occasion of being recognized as Merrick Herald's People of the Year 2012; and

WHEREAS, On October 28, 2012, one day before Hurricane Sandy whipped across the Tristate area, first assistant chief Michael Gargan of the Merrick Fire Department ordered his volunteers to their respective firehouses; they slept at their stations, ready to respond to a call at a moment's notice; and

WHEREAS, The following morning, the Merrick Fire Department was inundated with phone calls from homeowners reporting downed power lines and flooded homes while Hurricane Sandy spent the rest of that Monday churning up the East Coast, gaining power as it went; and

WHEREAS, The valiant members of the Merrick Fire Department went out into the tempest, risking their lives to extinguish the numerous fires that broke out as electrical systems and home generators shorted out; and

WHEREAS, At the same time, department volunteers helped to evacuate the neediest residents who had remained in the flood zone -- the elderly and small children; and

WHEREAS, The acts of heroism performed by the 60 firefighters on duty during Hurricane Sandy were too numerous to count; and

WHEREAS, In the weeks following the storm, the Merrick Fire Department responded to more than 300 additional calls; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body cannot express sufficient gratitude to those devoted individuals who recognize that the preservation of life and property is a sacred responsibility and who make that responsibility their own by serving as firefighters; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when individuals of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend the volunteers of the Merrick Fire Department upon the occasion of being recognized as Merrick Herald's People of the Year 2012; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Chief Michael Gargan, Merrick Fire Department.