

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Niagara Falls Firefighters Battalion Chief Dan Boland and Captain Jason Zona in recognition of their prompt and heroic efforts to save a man who fell through the ice at Hyde Park Lake

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to commend the concerned and heroic acts of those firefighters who, in the courageous performance of their duties, take immediate and appropriate action to protect the health and safety of others; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Niagara Falls Firefighters Battalion Chief Dan Boland and Captain Jason Zona in recognition of their prompt and heroic efforts to save a man who fell through the ice at Hyde Park Lake; and

WHEREAS, On Wednesday, February 15, 2012, witnesses called 911 dispatchers stating someone had fallen through the ice at Hyde Park Lake in the city of Niagara Falls, New York; and

WHEREAS, Niagara Falls firefighters quickly responded and found a man who, attempting to rescue one of his three golden retrievers who had ventured out onto the thin ice and had fallen through, was now himself submerged in the freezing water; and

WHEREAS, Battalion Chief Dan Boland and Captain Jason Zona were first on scene and both ended up in the water without protective clothing; Battalion Chief Boland successfully swam out to the man and dragged him to shore where he was lifted out by Captain Zona and rescue crews on shore; the man was taken to the hospital where he unfortunately succumbed to his injuries; and

WHEREAS, The three dogs were taken to the local SPCA where they were adopted a few days later by one of the responding firefighters and his family; and

WHEREAS, Battalion Chief Dan Boland began his career on the Niagara Falls Fire Department on September 25, 1978, and is currently the senior member on the Department; and

WHEREAS, This courageous firefighter has been a Battalion Chief since January 7, 1996, also the most senior; he has earned several Presidential Awards in his career and also earned the Levy Award for bravery in 1981; and

WHEREAS, Captain Jason Zona started with the Niagara Falls Fire Department on January 23, 2003, and just passed his 10th Anniversary; and

WHEREAS, A brave and valiant firefighter, he was promoted to Captain on August 21, 2011; throughout his career, he has earned Union Presidential Awards; and

WHEREAS, Battalion Chief Dan Boland and Captain Jason Zona, in their spontaneous and heroic acts, have so aptly demonstrated their character and compassion for the welfare of others; personifying, by virtue of their actions, the collective concern of firefighters across the community of New York State who respond without thought of danger or reward when others are in need of help; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Niagara Falls Firefighters Battalion Chief Dan Boland and Captain Jason Zona in recognition of their prompt and heroic efforts to save a man who fell through the ice at Hyde Park Lake, noting the significance of their immediate and unconditional response to come to the aid of another in a life-threatening situation; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Niagara Falls Firefighters Battalion Chief Dan Boland and Captain Jason Zona.

