

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION congratulating Chief Donald Corkery upon the occasion of being selected as President of the Suffolk County Fire District Officers Association

WHEREAS, The firefighters of New York State are renowned throughout the Nation; their reputation is synonymous with excellence in the arduous field of fire protection and prevention; and

WHEREAS, Since the early days of "teapot steamers," the volunteer firefighter has been the cornerstone of our great Nation's efforts to spare us from the ravages of fire; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is proud to congratulate Chief Donald Corkery upon the occasion of being selected as President of the Suffolk County Fire District Officers Association; and

WHEREAS, Donald Corkery began his fire service career with the Wyandanch Fire Company in the fall of 1969; his dad was a firefighter with the Massapequa Engine Company No. 5, and his father-in-law is a Wyandanch ex-chief; and

WHEREAS, Donald Corkery moved to Sayville, New York, and joined Resolute Hose Company No. 1 of the Sayville Fire Department in 1972; he began the progression as a line officer in 1976, and was elected as a lieutenant and then captain of his company; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, in 1981, Donald Corkery was elected to assistant chief, followed by acting chief in 1984; he served as chief of the department from 1985-1987; and

WHEREAS, Active within the community, Donald Corkery served as President of the Islip Town Fire Chiefs Council, as well as the Suffolk County Fire Chiefs Council; in 1982, he was appointed a Deputy Fire Coordinator for Suffolk County; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, he later served as the Chief Deputy Fire Coordinator from 1992 to 2005, and as Deputy Commissioner of Suffolk County Fire/Rescue and Emergency Services in 2005; he has been a member of the New York State Association of Fire Chiefs since 1980, and served on the Public Education, Codes, Life Safety, and Conference Committees for 18 years; and

WHEREAS, Donald Corkery began his profession as a fireman on a locomotive for the Long Island Railroad, followed by a locomotive engineer; he worked in the Training Division for 25 years, and retired as the Director of Training in 2004; and

WHEREAS, In addition to training Long Island Railroad employees, his responsibilities included training firefighters from the New York City, Nassau, and Suffolk Counties on railroad safety; he was also an instructor for the Suffolk County Fire Academy; and

WHEREAS, Today, Donald Corkery is an active member of his department, and is the Blue Jays Drill Team driver; he is completing his fifth five-year term as Fire Commissioner; and

WHEREAS, In his spare time, when not serving his community, Donald Corkery rides with the "Riders of Fire" Motorcycle Club; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout have been his wife of 37 years, Laura, and their two children, Brian and Kate, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of his life and rejoice in his achievements; and

WHEREAS, Volunteer firefighters and fire departments not only provide the critical service of fire protection but also engage in other activities of great benefit and importance to the communities they serve; and

WHEREAS, It takes a special dedication, a strong desire to help others and a tireless sense of community to forsake precious time with family and friends to respond to the signal that a neighbor is in need; Donald Corkery is such a firefighter; throughout his years of devoted service,

this volunteer heroically performed, above and beyond the call of duty,

those responsibilities which define the task of fire protection; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to congratulate Donald Corkery upon the occasion of being selected as President of the Suffolk County Fire District Officers Association; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Chief Donald Corkery.