

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the Ilion Fire Department, to be celebrated on May 20, 2013

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is proud to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the Ilion Fire Department, and to honor its past and present firefighting members for 150 years of fire protection to the residents of the Village of Ilion, New York, and its surrounding communities; this extraordinary milestone will be celebrated on Monday, May 20, 2013, at the Central Fire Station in Ilion; and

WHEREAS, In addition to the skill and devoted service demonstrated by its individual firefighters, the Ilion Fire Department reflects the history and development of firefighting over the past 150 years; and

WHEREAS, The Volunteer Fire Department in the Village of Ilion, Herkimer County, was founded in 1863; originally named the Armory Hose Company, it was organized by the Remington Arms Company to meet the needs of the village which had changed significantly from a small community consisting of 7 dwellings, 2 storehouses and 1 school to a thriving metropolis of approximately 2880 residents; and

WHEREAS, The initial company was composed of 48 volunteers, all employees of the Remington Armory; R. R. Bennett was appointed first chief engineer and Alfred Brooks and Kitzmiller, 1st and 2nd engineers; and

WHEREAS, The equipment consisted of 3 hand operated pumps maintained by John E. Dodge; the company boasted of such names as John Islam, Jacob Wells, Richard Winegar, J. F. Haley, A. N. Ross, John Seaver, Summer, Wilcox, Servis, Groves, Alonzo Rasbach, Kinney, Ballard, Kane, Harter, and many others; and

WHEREAS, In 1870, the village board purchased a new hand engine for \$1200 and formed Excelsior Hose Company No. 2, which later became known as the C. W. Carpenter Hose Company, and today is known as Ilion Hose Company No. 2; Ilion Hose Company No. 1 is the original Armory Hose Company formed by the Remington Armory; and

WHEREAS, The Volunteer Fire Department in the Village of Ilion continued to expand as the village expanded; after the establishment of the Remington Typewriter Company in 1874, the population of the Village of Ilion increased to 4500 and, in 1876, the village purchased two Silsbee Rotary Steamers for \$4,000 each; and

WHEREAS, The Ilion water supply system was installed in 1891 and the fire alarm system in 1911 under the supervision of George O. Luce, then fire chief of the Ilion Volunteer Fire Department; in 1913 the first motor fire truck was purchased; and

WHEREAS, The fire department was entirely volunteer until 1919, when the paid Ilion Fire Department was organized and George O. Luce became the first chief; the Department's second chief, Sanford Getman, was, at the time of his appointment, the youngest fire chief of any town in the country; and

WHEREAS, Fire departments are an integral part of community protection services in every locality of our State; during the past 150 years, the courageous and devoted firefighters of the Village of Ilion have valiantly responded to all types of fire emergencies and have won the praise and respect of the community they serve; and

WHEREAS, With a membership of dedicated firefighters, the record of the Ilion Fire Department in public service and fire protection is one to be envied; for 24 hours a day, for 365 days a year, for 150 years, whenever the alarm sounded, these noble volunteers left their homes and went to the aid of their neighbors; and

WHEREAS, The brave firefighters of the Ilion Fire Department are prepared to risk their lives every day to help save the lives of others

and to protect homes and property from the destruction caused by fire;
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 we should give special recognition to those who work so assiduously for the betterment of their communities, and acknowledge publicly the heroic good works performed by the volunteer and paid fire departments of this great Empire State, their officers and auxiliaries; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to proudly commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the Ilion Fire Department; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Ilion Fire Department.