

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 75th Anniversary of the Dunkirk Professional Firefighters Association Local 616

WHEREAS, It is the intent of this Legislative Body to recognize and honor fire departments and their members who have exhibited great dedication, courage and selflessness in protecting their neighbors from fire and other disasters in this great Empire State; and

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

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Dunkirk Professional Firefighters Association Local 616; and

WHEREAS, The Dunkirk Professional Firefighters Association Local 616 hired its first paid members in 1899, after the City of Dunkirk, New York, bought horse-drawn fire wagons; and

WHEREAS, In February of 1939, the members who were already organized as the Dunkirk permanent firemen became affiliated with the International Association of Firefighters (IAFF) as Local 616; their first President was Thomas Moody; and

WHEREAS, The IAFF represents over 300,000 professional firefighters and paramedics who protect 85 percent of the nation's population; more than 3,200 affiliates protect communities in every state and Canada; and

WHEREAS, In 1948, Local 616 began affiliation with the New York State Professional Fire Fighters Association, the AFL-CIO, Western New York Labor Federation, and the Dunkirk Area Labor Council; and

WHEREAS, Currently, the Dunkirk Fire Department has 24 professional firefighters who staff three stations and provide fire protection, emergency medical services, and specialized rescue and response to the City of Dunkirk; and

WHEREAS, In addition to saving lives, the Dunkirk Professional Firefighters Association Local 616 has a proud tradition of being active in fundraising and contributing to the community through the Muscular Dystrophy Association, Dunkirk Little League, Northern Chautauqua Soccer Association, Youth Hockey, Dunkirk Midget League Football, the Salvation Army, and the retired firefighters cancer fund; and

WHEREAS, The Association's active members, with a focus on community service, provide vital services to their beloved community; these first responders are devoted to helping their neighbors in times of extreme need; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to publicly recognize distinguished fire organizations which have achieved notable success in protecting lives and property over the course of their long histories in this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Dunkirk Professional Firefighters Association Local 616; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Dunkirk Professional Firefighters Association Local 616.