

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Firefighter Jennifer Cortese posthumously upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the 2015 FASNY Fire Safety Educator of the Year Award

WHEREAS, Citizens across our State and Nation are inspired by and indebted to our valiant firefighters who exhibit courage and bravery every day in the course of their duties; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize and commend the caring concern and heroic acts of individuals who take prompt and appropriate action in emergency situations, nobly risking their own lives in an effort to preserve the life of another; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Jennifer Cortese posthumously upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the 2015 FASNY Fire Safety Educator of the Year Award to be celebrated at the Oneida VFA Fire and Life Safety Expo at Mohawk Valley Community College Information and Technology Auditorium in Utica, New York, Friday, May 29, 2015; and

WHEREAS, Firefighter Jennifer Cortese was a full-time radiologist at St. Joseph's Hospital Health Center who spent countless hours providing outstanding fire safety programs to students in Whitesboro, New York, and throughout Oneida County; and

WHEREAS, This esteemed fire safety educator developed instructional lessons which included a puppet show for students in school districts, and at such places as day care facilities and the New York State School for the Deaf; she also held a successful raffle in an effort to raise funds for fire prevention education; and

WHEREAS, Jennifer Cortese was known for both her initiative and positive attitude, as well as her vast knowledge of the fire prevention and life safety curriculum; and

WHEREAS, During her illustrious tenure, she worked tirelessly to provide energetic, life-saving messages to her community; she also helped the Whitesboro Fire Department Education Team grow from 5 to 20 members, and was consistently involved in her community and local schools, participating in annual parades and special events; and

WHEREAS, Though she passed away unexpectedly on January 3, 2015, Jennifer Cortese's efforts and commitment to learning continue to benefit the students and staff of the Whitesboro Central School District and community; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by an individual for the benefit of others which Firefighter Jennifer Cortese displayed throughout her life; and

WHEREAS, A true asset to society, Firefighter Jennifer Cortese's distinguished record merits the recognition and respectful tribute of this Legislative Body; 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; Jennifer Cortese was such one firefighter; throughout her many years of devoted service, this volunteer heroically performed, above and beyond the call of duty, those responsibilities which define the task of fire protection in the great State of New York; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Firefighter Jennifer Cortese posthumously upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the 2015 FASNY Fire Safety Educator of the Year Award; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Firefighter Jennifer Cortese.