

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Russ Vantervoort upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition after 50 years of dedicated service to the Waterford Fire Department

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 commend Russ Vantervoort upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition after 50 years of dedicated service to the Waterford Fire Department; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his tenure at the Waterford Fire Department, Russ Vantervoort has held numerous leadership positions including 2nd Lieutenant from 1975-1977, 1st Lieutenant from 1978-1979, and Captain from 1980-1987, as well as Department Training Officer, Safety Officer, and Fire Investigator; and

WHEREAS, In addition, he served as both President and Secretary of the J.W. Ford Hose Co. No. 2, Waterford Fire Department; and

WHEREAS, In 1974, Russ Vantervoort and Bob Stark proudly organized the Fire Prevention Program of the Waterford Fire Department; Russ continued his involvement in this vital Program for over 26 years; and

WHEREAS, Today, the Fire Prevention Program has grown to teach fire prevention to children in grades Pre-Kindergarten through sixth grade, and also incorporated an Open House presentation at the Fire House so that the children of Waterford and their families can observe live demonstrations and learn more on the dangers of fire and how to be safe; and

WHEREAS, Along with his role at the Waterford Fire Department, Russ Vantervoort served as a Village Trustee for 12 years; he also participated on the Saratoga County Volunteer Fireman's Association, and held the position of President of the Hudson Mohawk Valley Volunteer Fireman's Association; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, Russ Vantervoort held the title of Chairman of both the Saratoga County Fire Advisory Board of Directors, and the Hudson Valley Volunteer Fireman's Association Legislative Committee; and

WHEREAS, Proud of his role as a Firefighter, Russ Vantervoort wrote a book about the history of the Hudson Valley Volunteer Fireman's Association entitled 100 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE; 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; Russ Vantervoort is such a firefighter; throughout 50 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 commend Firefighter Russ Vantervoort for 50 years of distinguished service; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Russ Vantervoort.