

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 120th Anniversary of the Downsville Fire Department

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is proud to commemorate the 120th Anniversary of the Downsville Fire Department and to honor its past and present firefighting members for 120 years of fire protection to the citizens of Downsville and its surrounding communities; and

WHEREAS, Fire departments are an integral part of community protection services in every locality of our State; during the past 120 years, the courageous and devoted firefighters of the Downsville Fire Department have valiantly responded to all types of fire emergencies and have won the praise and respect of the community which they serve; and

WHEREAS, A major fire in the Downsville business district in 1890 led to the formation of the Downsville Fire Department on March 4, 1896; and

WHEREAS, The Fire Department began as the Downsville Hose Company and quickly added the T.K. Walker Hook and Ladder Company No. 2 to provide additional aid; the two companies merged in 1917, to form the Downsville Fire District and purchased its first fire hall, which is currently the Downsville Hardware building; and

WHEREAS, At this time, the firefighting apparatus consisted of hand- and horse-drawn equipment; the first gas-powered truck was added in 1926; and

WHEREAS, In 1953, the Fire Department decided to build a new fire hall and Cooks Falls-Horton residents petitioned to join the district the next year; the women's auxiliary was formed in 1956, to assist the fire company; and

WHEREAS, The Downsville Emergency Squad was organized in 1966, and the first ambulance purchased by the Fire Department was a green Cadillac; previously, the Fire Department had been using a hearse; and

WHEREAS, In 1976, the Fire Department purchased what is now the Downsville Fireman's Park, and continues to hold field days there to the delight of the community; and

WHEREAS, Under the luminous leadership of Downsville Fire Chief Mark Mattson, the Fire Department remains strong and is looking to progress in the coming years; an influx of new members and new leadership will help it move in the right direction by becoming more efficient and more involved; and

WHEREAS, With 30 active members, the Downsville Fire Department responds to approximately 180 calls every year; seven new Emergency Medical Technicians will be joining the Fire Department, further enhancing the services that they can provide to the community; and

WHEREAS, With a membership of dedicated firefighters, the record of the Downsville Fire Department in public service and fire protection is one to be envied; for 24 hours a day, for 365 days a year, for 120 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 Downsville 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, In addition to the skill and devoted service demonstrated by individual firefighters, the Downsville Fire Department reflects the history and development of firefighting over the past 120 years; 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 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 120th Anniversary of the Downsville Fire Department; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Mark Mattson, Chief, Downsville Fire Department.