

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Firefighter Joseph F. Loeffler upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition after 51 years of dedicated service to the Valatie 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 Firefighter Joseph F. Loeffler upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition after 51 years of dedicated service to the Valatie Fire Department; and

WHEREAS, Joseph F. Loeffler joined the Valatie Fire Department as a volunteer firefighter on February 6, 1965, and thereafter rose to the ranks of Lieutenant and Captain; and

WHEREAS, Joseph F. Loeffler then became the Second Assistant Chief in April of 1968 and in October of 1968 became the First Assistant Chief; and

WHEREAS, Joseph F. Loeffler served as Chief of the Valatie Fire Department in 1969-1983, 1985-1990, 1992-1997, and 2007-2008; and

WHEREAS, Over the years, Joseph F. Loeffler has also held numerous other positions, including President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer or Trustee of the Lafayette Chemical Company of the Valatie Fire Department; he has also been a member of the Valatie Rescue Squad; and

WHEREAS, In addition to the positions he has held with the Valatie Fire Department, Joseph F. Loeffler served as the President of the Columbia County Volunteer Firefighters' Association in 1982, Co-Chairman of the 150th Anniversary Celebration of the Valatie Fire Department in 1987, and Chairman of the 175th Anniversary Celebration of the Valatie Fire Department in 2012, as well as in many other positions over his 51 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; Joseph F. Loeffler is such a firefighter; throughout 51 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 Joseph F. Loeffler for 51 years of distinguished service; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Firefighter Joseph F. Loeffler.