

**BY:** Senator JACOBS

**MOURNING** the death of former Fire Commissioner  
Walter "Jay" Milligan of the Lake View Volunteer  
Fire Department

**WHEREAS,** It is with great sorrow and deep regret that this Legislative Body records the passing of former Fire Commissioner W. Jay Milligan, noting the significance of his purposeful life and accomplishments; and

**WHEREAS,** W. Jay Milligan of Lake View, New York, died on Monday, March 20, 2017, at the age of 86; and

**WHEREAS,** W. Jay Milligan joined the Lake View Volunteer Fire Department in July of 2005, and was an active and productive member until his death; throughout his 12 years of service, he always strived to give back to his community; and

**WHEREAS,** Never in the history of the Lake View Volunteer Fire Department did a "seasoned", 73 year-old rookie, become involved and give of himself above and beyond normal expectations; at a time in life when most veteran fire service members draw back in their activities, he was just the opposite; his determination was simply incredible; and

**WHEREAS,** Throughout his tenure, W. Jay Milligan answered more than 21 percent of EMS and fire calls, which was close to 100 calls per year; he faithfully attended weekly drills and training sessions, meetings and work details; and

**WHEREAS,** In 2008, W. Jay Milligan was elected to the esteemed title of Fire Commissioner of the Lake View Fire District, a position he held until 2013; in this capacity, he was instrumental in the Fire District's acquisition of two parcels of property which allowed the fire department to have options should the district need to expand or update its facilities in the future; and

**WHEREAS,** Well-respected and appreciated by his fellow fire service members, W. Jay Milligan was an honorary member of the Armor Volunteer Fire Company, and an active participant in the Southtowns Fire Police Association, and the Fire Police Squad; and

**WHEREAS,** W. Jay Milligan found friendships in Erie County and throughout New York State while attending local, county and state conferences and training sessions; those who had the opportunity to know him found him to be an interesting and caring; he had a way of making friends quickly and those friendships were mutually respected and cherished; and

**WHEREAS,** In addition to his valuable work with the Lake View Volunteer Fire Department, W. Jay Milligan was a pioneer in the motorsports industry and the founding father of JM Productions, Inc.;

and

**WHEREAS,** Nearly 54 years ago, W. Jay Milligan first produced a Demolition Derby at the Erie County Fair in Hamburg, New York; his hard work and vast knowledge was the groundwork of his thriving company which ultimately became the driving force behind more than 70 shows annually at both state and county fairs all over the eastern United States; and

**WHEREAS,** In 1974, W. Jay Milligan created the All-American Thrill Show where he had a role in developing a mid-air, 360 degree roll called the "Astro-Spiral"; and

**WHEREAS,** An exceptional skier, W. Jay Milligan also served on the United States Ski Patrol at Kissing Bridge for approximately 15 years; and

**WHEREAS,** Jay Milligan distinguished himself in the Lake View Volunteer Fire Department and by his sincere dedication and substantial contribution to the welfare of his community; and

**WHEREAS,** A great asset to society, Jay Milligan is going to be truly missed and will be a great loss to the Lake View Volunteer Fire Department; 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; Jay Milligan was such a firefighter; and

**WHEREAS,** Throughout his years of devoted service, Jay Milligan heroically performed, above and beyond the call of duty, those responsibilities which define the task of fire protection; and

**WHEREAS,** Predeceased by his wife, Florence E. Milligan, and his brother-in-law, William Christensen, Jay Milligan is survived by his former wife, Kathy Milligan; six children, Sheryl L. (Dale) Zielonka, Jay (Dee) Milligan, Jr., Paul L. Milligan, Kathleen E. (James) Werling, Barbara J. (Doug) Manchester, and Marilyn R. (John) Zoeckler; 13 grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; one sister, Joyann Christensen; several nieces and nephews; and his cat, Skooter; as well as a legion of fellow firefighters and friends who will long cherish his memory; and

**WHEREAS,** Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, Jay Milligan leaves behind a legacy which will long endure the passage of time and will remain a comforting memory to all he served and befriended; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the death of former Fire Commissioner Walter "Jay" Milligan of the Lake View Volunteer Fire Department; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Walter "Jay" Milligan.