

Senate Resolution No. 18

BY: Senator YOUNG

COMMENDING the Cattaraugus Indian Reservation Volunteer Fire Department upon the occasion of celebrating its 50th Anniversary

WHEREAS, It is the intent of this Legislative Body to recognize and honor fire departments and their members who have exhibited great dedication, courage and selflessness in protecting their neighbors from fire and other disasters in this great Empire State; and

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 State's efforts to spare us from the ravages of fire; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend the Cattaraugus Indian Reservation Volunteer Fire Department upon the occasion of celebrating its 50th Anniversary; and

WHEREAS, Volunteer firefighters and emergency medical personnel not only provide the critical service of fire protection and medical care, but also engage in other activities of great benefit and importance to the communities they serve; and

WHEREAS, The Cattaraugus Indian Reservation Volunteer Fire Department was established by a group of tribal members who were concerned about being able to protect themselves against the ravages of fire; with donated equipment from neighboring companies, they became a chartered organization on February 15, 1967; and

WHEREAS, The firemen were able to buy a tanker, purchased entirely with money through their fundraising effort, allowing them the ability not to require any grants or take out any loans; and

WHEREAS, "The Little Red Fire Hall on Route 438" has grown from its humble beginnings, located at one of the closed Thomas Indian School buildings, to its present day state-of-the-art facility constructed in 2015; and

WHEREAS, The Cattaraugus Indian Reservation Volunteer Fire Department and its firefighters have received high honors and praise for performing heroic acts and have demonstrated a commitment to fire protection; it has also been lauded as an exemplary fire company/ambulance service, receiving the 2010 Agency of the Year Award; and

WHEREAS, In addition to the company award, many individual members

were recipients of awards for their bravery and commendable performance such as the Michael C. Redeye (Fire Chief of the Year) Award; and

WHEREAS, The Cattaraugus Indian Reservation Volunteer Fire Department also recognizes important contributions made by community members by offering an annual Citizen of the Year Award to individuals who merit special recognition; and

WHEREAS, Under the able leadership of President Dexter Jimerson, the Cattaraugus Indian Reservation Volunteer Fire Department has provided outstanding service to members of the Seneca Nation and surrounding communities; 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 carry out the vital mission of volunteer fire departments; and

WHEREAS, Special recognition should be given to those who work so assiduously for the betterment of their communities, and they should be acknowledged publicly for their heroic good works as volunteer firefighters of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor the Cattaraugus Indian Reservation Volunteer Fire Department upon the occasion of celebrating its 50th Anniversary; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Dexter Jimerson, President of the Cattaraugus Indian Reservation Volunteer Fire Department.