

BY: Senator BONACIC

COMMENDING Fire Commissioner John Henry Lewis, Sr. posthumously upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by the Orange County Volunteer Fire Police Association on May 11, 2017

WHEREAS, Citizens across our State and Nation are inspired by and indebted to our valiant firefighters who exhibit courage and bravery every day in the course of their duties; and

WHEREAS, Firefighters exemplify the power of human compassion and the strength of the American spirit through actions of the most heroic magnitude; their sacrifices and their selfless dedication merit tribute and recognition by all citizens of this great country; and

WHEREAS, Fire Commissioner John Henry Lewis, Sr. heroically performed, above and beyond the call of duty, those responsibilities which define the task of fire protection for more than six decades; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Fire Commissioner John Henry Lewis, Sr. posthumously upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by the Orange County Volunteer Fire Police Association to be celebrated at its Candlelight Memorial Service on Thursday, May 11, 2017, at the Coldenham Fire Department in Walden, New York; and

WHEREAS, John Henry Lewis, Sr. of Campbell Hall, New York, died on December 1, 2016, at the age of 87; and

WHEREAS, John Henry Lewis, Sr. was born in Ringwood, New Jersey, on September 21, 1929, to Leroy and Ida Lewis; and

WHEREAS, John Henry Lewis, Sr. proudly served his country as a First Sergeant in the United States Army during the Korean War; after his discharge, he returned to New York and worked with Laborers' Local 754 for 53 years; and

WHEREAS, For numerous years, John Henry Lewis, Sr. was a vital member of the Otterkill Engine and Hose Company in Campbell Hall, New York; in addition, he served in the Fire Police for 29 years, and held the title of Hamtonburgh Fire Commissioner for 26 years; and

WHEREAS, John Henry Lewis, Sr., with his zest for life, has inspired and enhanced the lives of his family and friends; he has enriched the lives of those around him through his joyous and sincere love for others and through the quiescent charm and wisdom which comes only from a fullness of years; and

WHEREAS, Predeceased by his parents; two brothers, Ernest and Leo Lewis; and one sister, Martha Lewis, John Henry Lewis, Sr. is survived by his wife, Eileen E. Lewis; two sons, Kenneth Lewis and John H. Lewis,

Jr.; one brother, LeRoy Lewis; three sisters, Ida Hewitt, Bertha Smith, and Gloria Siegmund; seven grandchildren, Kelly, Heather, Brittany, John Henry III, Steven Patrick, Douglas William, Kenneth Thomas, Jr.; and five great-grandchildren, Logan, Marcus, Isabella, Jaslyn, and Jace, as well as a legion of fellow firefighters and friends who will long cherish his memory; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his meritorious life, John Henry Lewis, Sr. touched many through his kindness and commitment to service, and, as we recall the loss of this great man, we memorialize his remarkable life and the enormous impact he had on everyone with whom he came in contact; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to convey its grateful appreciation and heartfelt regret in recognition of a courageous firefighter who dedicated his purposeful life and career in faithful service to his family and community; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Fire Commissioner John Henry Lewis, Sr. posthumously upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by the Orange County Volunteer Fire Police Association; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Fire Commissioner John Henry Lewis, Sr.