

BY: Senator BONACIC

COMMENDING Firefighter James TenKate 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, Firefighter James TenKate 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 Firefighter James TenKate 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, James TenKate of Castleton-on-Hudson, New York, died on January 4, 2017, at the age of 90; and

WHEREAS, James TenKate was born in Midland Park, New Jersey, on August 29, 1926, to James and Margaret TenKate; and

WHEREAS, In 1954, James TenKate joined the Circleville Fire Department; throughout his more than 60 years of service, he held several positions within the Department including: Chief, President, Treasurer, and Commissioner, and left active fire service as a Fire Policeman; and

WHEREAS, For his steadfast and unrelenting commitment to his Department and community, James TenKate was the first recipient of the Circleville Fire Department Spirit Award; and

WHEREAS, In addition to his work with the Circleville Fire Department, James TenKate was a vital member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, and served as Treasurer for the Happy Seniors, Town of Wallkill Seniors; and

WHEREAS, James TenKate had a long and distinguished career at the Ford Motor Company of Mahwah, New Jersey, a position from which he officially retired in 1983; and

WHEREAS, James TenKate, 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, When James TenKate was not serving his community, he faithfully attended church, and loved to spend time with his beloved friends and family; he also enjoyed playing golf, fishing, hunting, and being outdoors; and

WHEREAS, James TenKate is survived by his wife of 68 years, Shirley (Hulseapple) TenKate; his four sons, William A. (Linda) TenKate, Michael J. (Maryann) TenKate, Raymond J. (Velicia) TenKate, and Kevin R. TenKate; one sister, Jan (Bill) Zimmerman; nine grandchildren, and 19 great-grandchildren, as well as a legion of fellow firefighters and friends who will long cherish his memory; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his meritorious life, James TenKate 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 Firefighter James TenKate 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 Firefighter James TenKate.