

BY: Senator TEDISCO

COMMEMORATING the 100th Anniversary of Burnt Hills
Fire Department, Inc. on May 12, 2018

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is proud to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of Burnt Hills Fire Department Inc. and to honor its past and present firefighting members for 100 years of fire protection to the citizens of Burnt Hills, New York, and its surrounding communities; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of Burnt Hills Fire Department, Inc. to be celebrated at an event on Saturday, May 12, 2018, at the Ballston Town Hall in Ballston Spa, New York; and

WHEREAS, Fire departments are an integral part of community protection services in every locality of our State; during the past 100 years, the courageous and devoted firefighters of the Burnt Hills Fire Department have valiantly responded to all types of fire emergencies and have won the praise and respect of the community which they serve; and

WHEREAS, In the early 1900s, several Burnt Hills people felt the need of fire protection for the area, so they decided to incorporate, and Lieutenant Commander Baily chaired the first meeting; and

WHEREAS, The Burnt Hills Fire Department was officially established in 1918, and charter members were A.T. Sitterly, Tom Denty, Nate Seely, A.B. Phillips, Russ West, Carl Larkin, Abe VanPatten, Gil West, Fred Higgins, R.C. Masterson, Otto Frieberg, Floyd Bates, Dave Baylis, Frank Gardner, Martin Gilmore, Charles Fairman, Gilbert Seeley, Ira Abbs, A.B. Bates, Floyd Johnson, Valley Bubb, Alan Sharpley, George Bates, Lee Hammond, Ed Hammond, Ashley Baker, and Lieutenant Commander Claude Bailey, as well as William Nettle; and

WHEREAS, Two years later, the Department purchased a hand drawn vehicle, and a siren which was installed on the roof of the corner store which was located on South and West Streets; after purchasing land, construction of the firehouse began in 1923; and

WHEREAS, In 1926, fire districts boundaries were laid out, and a Model T Ford Pumper was purchased in Poughkeepsie; and

WHEREAS, In 1928, Union Free School, now known as Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake Central School was destroyed by fire; all local churches, halls and other properties were used for classes until the central school could be rebuilt; today, this school is now known as Francis L. Stevens Elementary School; and

WHEREAS, The firemen started their Annual Roast Beef dinners at the high school cafeteria in 1938, a tradition that has continued for numerous decades; and

WHEREAS, During World War II, the Burnt Hills Fire Department was pretty well depleted as many members were enlisting or being drafted to serve the country; those who served were Donald and Robert Flicker, Gilbert Gardner, Elwood and George Kline, Melvin and Albert Smith, William Smith, James Yates, Arthur and Russell Young, Edward Plath, Darwin Reynolds, Paul Smith and Fred Foss, all of whom returned to their hometown safely; and

WHEREAS, During this time, the Department purchased an old Packard convertible car and made it into its first squad truck; in the late 1940s, the firemen decided they needed a larger firehouse, and saved much of the initial cost by giving their savings to the commissioners to purchase land on Route 50; and

WHEREAS, In 1950, neighboring fire companies, scouts, school bands, and local residents attended the cornerstone dedication ceremony of the new building; the ladies of the community baked so many cookies for the event that they were later donated to various organizations all over the area; and

WHEREAS, Seven years later, the Burnt Hills Fire Department bought a lot to build the North End Firehouse, and fire station No. 2 was dedicated on January 4, 1959; the wash bay section was added in 1972; and

WHEREAS, Through the next 45 years, the Burnt Hills Fire Department continued to fight fires, perform rescues, and serve its community; the Department has also strived to keep up with technology, and installed a 911 system, which allows for direct calls from fire control to the fire department, and instant calls for mutual aid when the need arises; and

WHEREAS, Today, the Burnt Hills Fire Department is led by: Chief, Bill Crawford; Assistant Chief, Greg Bradtke; Captain Station One, Michael Fowler; Captain Station Two, Michael Brooks; Captain Fire Police, Robert Hodgson; Lieutenant ETA 161, Angele Steady; Lieutenant ER 162, Todd Axton; Lieutenant ETA 171, Stephen Mudge; and Lieutenant F 171, Miranda Koster; and

WHEREAS, With a membership of dedicated firefighters, the record of the Burnt Hills Fire Department in public service and fire protection is one to be envied; for 24 hours a day, for 365 days a year, for 100 years, whenever the alarm sounded, these noble volunteers left their homes and went to the aid of their neighbors; and

WHEREAS, The brave firefighters of the Burnt Hills Fire Department are prepared to risk their lives every day to help save the lives of others and to protect homes and property from the destruction caused by fire; and

WHEREAS, In addition to the skill and devoted service demonstrated by individual firefighters, the Burnt Hills Fire Department reflects the history and development of firefighting over the past 100 years; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body cannot express sufficient gratitude to those devoted individuals who recognize that the preservation of life and property is a sacred responsibility and who make that responsibility their own by serving as firefighters; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that we should give special recognition to those who work so assiduously for the betterment of their communities, and acknowledge publicly the heroic good works performed by the volunteer fire departments of this great Empire State, their officers and auxiliaries; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to proudly commemorate the 100th Anniversary of Burnt Hills Fire Department, Inc. on May 12, 2018; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Bill Crawford, Chief, Burnt Hills Fire Department, Inc.