

BY: Senator PHILLIPS

COMMENDING Honorary Captain Donald Franz upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition after 50 years of dedicated service to Truck Company 2, of the Mineola Fire Department

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

WHEREAS, Volunteer 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, This Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Honorary Captain Donald Franz upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition after 50 years of dedicated service to Truck Company 2, of the Mineola Fire Department to be celebrated at an event on Saturday, May 19, 2018, at Crest Hollow Country Club in Woodbury, New York; and

WHEREAS, Firefighters unwaveringly serve our great State with pride, valor, and integrity; these respected volunteers are often the first to respond to an emergency, whether the emergency is a fire, transportation accident, natural disaster, act of terrorism, medical crisis, or spill of hazardous materials; and

WHEREAS, Donald Franz proudly served his country as a member of the United States Navy; after completing basic training at Floyd Bennet Air Field, he was shipped out to the Atlantic Fleet; and

WHEREAS, Upon the completion of his military service, Donald Franz returned to his hometown of Mineola, New York, and began working for Grumman before becoming a Corrections Officer; shortly thereafter, he realized he wanted to pursue a career in fire service; and

WHEREAS, Since 1969, Donald "Don" Franz has been an active member of Truck Company 2, of the Mineola Fire Department; throughout his tenure, he has served "The Workhorse Company" in numerous capacities including Vice President from 1986-1987, and President from 1988-1989; and

WHEREAS, A kind and compassionate man, Donald Franz chaired the Sick Committee for many years ensuring that anyone from the Mineola Fire Department family who was sick or injured got a visit and a gift; handy with a wrench, he helped restore the Company's 1939 Diamond T Floodlight; and

WHEREAS, For his steadfast and unrelenting dedication to the Company, Donald Franz was the recipient of both the 1984 and 2012 Truck 2 Firefighter of the Year Award, and was elevated to the esteemed rank

of Honorary Captain of Truck Company 2; and

WHEREAS, Donald Franz has also been a member of numerous Truck committees lending his technical expertise and experience, and served as the Department's First Aid Captain; and

WHEREAS, In 1988, Donald Franz received Mineola Fire Department's highest recognition, the prestigious Firefighter of the Year Award; and

WHEREAS, Donald Franz joined the Mineola Volunteer Ambulance Corps (MVAC) in 1979; he went on to become one of the Corps longest serving active members with 37 years of service; and

WHEREAS, Through the years, Donald Franz held the titles of Captain from 1996-2001, and Safety Officer from 2001-2006; he then stepped up to fill an unexpected vacancy in the chiefs' office; one year later, he was named Honorary Chief; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his tenure, Donald Franz was the recipient of numerous awards and accolades including the MVAC EMT of the Year Award, Garden City American Legion Law and Order Award and the 1999 Nassau County REMSCO BLS Provider of the Year Award, as well as the 2004 and 2012 EMS Leadership Award Honorable Mention by REMSCO; and

WHEREAS, In addition to his volunteer service, Donald Franz worked for the Nassau County Sheriff's Department, and became a career firefighter with the Garden City Fire Department in 1974; and

WHEREAS, Donald Franz quickly rose through the ranks, attaining the title of Lieutenant; in this role, he coordinated training for the new members; he was named the 1995 Garden City Fire Department Firefighter of the Year, the only career firefighter to be bestowed with this esteemed honor; in 2006, Donald officially retired from the Department after 32 years of service; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his 50 years of dedicated service, Donald Franz has always been willing to lend a hand or offer a bit of advice; he often helped other departments, without asking for any recognition; and

WHEREAS, Donald Franz is also a lifelong member of Boy Scout Troop 45, where he serves as Assistant Scoutmaster; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout have been his wife, Marla; their two sons, Chris and Bobby; and their seven grandchildren, Bryan, Timothy, Thomas, James, Jack, Stephen and Michaela, all of whom have shown him love and support and rejoice in his many achievements; 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; Honorary Captain Donald Franz is such a firefighter; throughout 50 years of devoted service, this firefighter heroically performed, above and beyond the call of duty, those responsibilities which define the task of fire protection; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Honorary Captain Donald Franz upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition after 50 years of dedicated service to the Truck Company 2, of the Mineola Fire Department; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Honorary Captain Donald Franz.