

**BY:** Senator MARCHIONE

**COMMENDING** the Clifton Park Volunteer Fire Department upon the occasion of celebrating its 80th Anniversary on February 25, 2017

**WHEREAS,** This Legislative Body has the deepest pride and admiration for the fire departments of New York State which perform the crucial work of fire protection and fire prevention; and

**WHEREAS,** Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend the Clifton Park Volunteer Fire Department upon the occasion of celebrating its 80th Anniversary at its Annual Inspection Dinner on Saturday, February 25, 2017, at the Mohawk River Country Club and Chateau, in Rexford, New York; and

**WHEREAS,** Fire departments are an integral part of community protection services in every locality of our State; for 80 years, the Clifton Park Volunteer Fire Department has worked to provide the best possible emergency service to the people of Clifton Park, New York, and to minimize suffering, and loss of life and property incurred by fire, accidents, disasters, and medical emergencies; and

**WHEREAS,** In 1937, a few local citizens of Clifton Park saw the need to provide fire protection for their town; the small group held meetings at their local school No. 21 and the Clifton Park Hotel; through many fundraising efforts, the Clifton Park Volunteer Fire Department started its foundation; and

**WHEREAS,** On October 17, 1935, the Clifton Park Volunteer Fire Department bought an REO Speedwagon, a chemical truck; the apparatus was housed in the cellar garage of Carl Osborne's home, at Route 9 and Old Route 146, which also served as the first firehouse; and

**WHEREAS,** Vern Lake was the first Chief and served for seven years, and Arthur "Pip" Gilbert held the position of the first President; in 1937, the Department acquired the old Clifton Park school building from the Clifton Park Young Men's Social Club for \$1.00, and the bell on the schoolhouse became the alarm; and

**WHEREAS,** In that same year, the Firehouse was incorporated under the laws of New York State; on April 9, 1940, the Department began serving the newly formed fire district named Clifton Park-Halfmoon Fire District No. 1; and

**WHEREAS,** In the early 1950s, the Ladies Auxiliary was formed to provide support to the District and aid the volunteer firefighters in many capacities; and

**WHEREAS,** The building of the first firehouse began in 1954, with section No. 1 as three bays, a kitchen and a men's room; from 1961-1962,

Fortune Construction built section No. 2 as the meeting hall and the Fireman's Hall; finally, in 1972, section No. 3 was built, which was comprised of three truck bays, a new kitchen, a radio room, and a ladies room; and

**WHEREAS,** From 1987 to 1989 the Clifton Park Volunteer Fire Department discussed and drew up plans for a new firehouse; in the Spring of 1990, the new firehouse was started and today, still proudly serves the residents of Clifton Park/Halfmoon; and

**WHEREAS,** Currently, the Clifton Park Volunteer Fire Department strives to be a proactive organization by providing their personnel with modern equipment, facilities and technology, promoting activities which encourage member training, community involvement, public relations, and fire and prevention education as well as the encouragement of camaraderie in the ranks and the inclusion of family-oriented activities; and

**WHEREAS,** With a membership of dedicated firefighters, the record of the Clifton Park Volunteer Fire Department in public service and fire protection is one to be envied; for 24 hours a day, for 365 days a year, for 80 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 Clifton Park Volunteer 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,** 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 fire departments 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 commend the Clifton Park Volunteer Fire Department upon the occasion of celebrating its 80th Anniversary on February 25, 2017; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Clifton Park Volunteer Fire Department.