

BY: Senator YOUNG

HONORING Peter G. Dawson upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition after 55 years of dedicated service to the Lakewood Volunteer Fire Department

WHEREAS, It is the intent of this Legislative Body to recognize and honor fire departments and their members who have exhibited great dedication, courage and selflessness in protecting their neighbors from fire and other disasters in this great Empire State; and

WHEREAS, The firefighters of New York State are renowned throughout the Nation; their reputation is synonymous with excellence in the arduous field of fire protection and prevention; and

WHEREAS, Since the early days of "teapot steamers," the volunteer firefighter has been the cornerstone of our great Nation's efforts to spare us from the ravages of fire; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Peter G. Dawson for 55 years of service to the Lakewood Volunteer Fire Department; and

WHEREAS, Volunteer firefighters and emergency medical personnel not only provide the critical service of fire protection and medical care, but also engage in other activities of great benefit and importance to the communities they serve; and

WHEREAS, Peter G. Dawson was born on November 15, 1942, in Rochester, New York, to loving parents, Lawrence and Elsie Dawson; he attended Southwestern Central in Jamestown, Edgewater High School in Orlando, Jamestown Community College, La Sorbonne in Paris, and Parsons College in Fairfield, Iowa; and

WHEREAS, Peter G. Dawson was employed as a Real Estate Broker/Owner from 1971-1990, Director of Personnel for Heritage Village Health Care from 1990-1993, New York State Fire Instructor from 1973-1978, and he entered Sales for the Sewing Technology Uniform Company from 2010-2016; and

WHEREAS, Peter G. Dawson is a loving husband of Linda A. Dawson, and together they are the proud parents of three children, Campbell, Thomas and Patrick; they have been further blessed with five grandchildren, Miles, Sydney, Olivia, Owen, and Ophelia; and

WHEREAS, Peter G. Dawson's favorite pastimes include traveling, watching movies, dining, sailing, and most importantly, spending quality time with his grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his 55 outstanding years, as part of the fire

service in Chautauqua County, Peter G. Dawson has served as a Fire Chief, State Fire Instructor, Fire Advisory Board Member, President of the County Fire Chiefs Association, Co-Creator of the County Technical Rescue Team, and the County Fire Service Newsletter; and

WHEREAS, Over the last 20 years, Peter G. Dawson has served as Chaplain of the Lakewood Volunteer Fire Department; in addition, he was appointed Chaplain of the Jamestown, Falconer and Ripley Fire Departments, County Critical Incident Stress Management Team, Starflight Medivac, WCA Hospital, the Hazardous Materials Response Team, the Lakewood-Busti Police Department, and the Office of the Sheriff; in this capacity, he has conducted 202 services, 185 of which have been funerals; and

WHEREAS, Peter G. Dawson is an engaging personality who possesses a unique combination of wit and humor with deep compassion and caring; he has provided comfort to countless victims in emergency situations and has counseled first responders who have answered the call of duty in traumatic circumstances; and

WHEREAS, Peter G. Dawson's Chaplaincy has been the most rewarding and fulfilling experience of his life, after fatherhood; his resume of accomplishments and profound dedication to the community over his long career are impressive and the perfect model of what it means to be an exemplary citizen; 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 carry out the vital mission of volunteer fire departments; and

WHEREAS, Observing that special recognition should be given to those who work so assiduously for the betterment of their communities, and that they should be acknowledged publicly for their heroic good works as volunteer firefighters in this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Peter G. Dawson upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition after 55 years of dedicated service to the Lakewood Volunteer Fire Department; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Peter G. Dawson.