

BY: Senator JACOBS

COMMEMORATING the 100th Anniversary of Kenilworth
Volunteer Fire Company No. 1

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is proud to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of Kenilworth Volunteer Fire Company No. 1, and to honor its past and present firefighting members for a century of fire protection to the citizens of Tonawanda, New York, and its surrounding communities; and

WHEREAS, This momentous occasion was celebrated at its Installation and Awards Dinner on Saturday, February 2, 2019, at the Marriott HarborCenter, Buffalo, New York; a Centennial 5K Run/Family Walk will also be held on Friday, July 26, 2019; the race route will begin at Lincoln Arena and conclude with awards, food trucks and music by Hit and Run; 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 Kenilworth Volunteer Fire Company No. 1 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 1919, a group of men founded Kenilworth Volunteer Fire Company No. 1, Inc.; a charter for the Fire Company was applied for that year, and after being returned twice by the state for more information, it was officially approved in 1920; and

WHEREAS, A donated hose cart was Kenilworth Volunteer Fire Company's first piece of firefighting equipment; during this time, it was stored in front of the old Kenilworth Inn, and in the winter months, had to be pushed or pulled to a fire; and

WHEREAS, The first fire alarms were sounded by cranking a hand siren kept in Haygarth's store located on the southeast corner of Kenilworth Avenue and Hawthorne Avenue; field days began in 1920, with as many as 1,000 people attending from surrounding fire districts; and

WHEREAS, Christian Lang, the Company's first Chief and a carpenter contractor, secured the funds to erect the original quarters of Kenilworth Volunteer Fire Company No. 1 at 66 Hawthorne Avenue; housed in this frame building was the first mechanized piece of apparatus, a REO truck on which chemical tanks were installed; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Directors, which held its first regular meeting on June 30, 1922, was comprised of John Kullman, Chairman; John Caplick, Secretary; Gibson Fenton, Treasurer; Albert Obenauer, Joseph Weisner and Frank Miller; and

WHEREAS, With a membership of dedicated firefighters, the record of

Kenilworth Volunteer Fire Company No. 1 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 Kenilworth Volunteer Fire Company No. 1 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, Kenilworth Volunteer Fire Company No. 1 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 Kenilworth Volunteer Fire Company No. 1; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Kenilworth Volunteer Fire Company No. 1, Tonawanda, New York.