

Assembly Resolution No. 273

BY: M. of A. Lemondes

HONORING Firefighter Martin J. Thomas upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition after 50 years of dedicated service to the Memphis 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 honor Firefighter Martin J. Thomas upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition after 50 years of dedicated service to the Memphis Fire Department on Thursday, June 3, 2021; and

WHEREAS, Martin J. Thomas, affectionately known as Marty, has consistently demonstrated a level of commitment, dedication, integrity and professionalism which truly exemplifies excellence in the volunteer service; and

WHEREAS, A member of the Memphis Fire Department since June 3, 1971, Martin J. Thomas quickly climbed the ranks to become Lieutenant, Captain and Assistant Chief; he also served two terms as President of the Memphis Fire Department, Inc., as well as President of the merged Warners Memphis Fire Company, Station No. 2; and

WHEREAS, In 1973, Martin J. Thomas joined the Onondaga County Firefighters Underwater Search and Rescue Team as a public safety diver; he continues to participate in training and responds to rescue and recovery calls; furthermore, he is a past President of the Team; and

WHEREAS, Martin J. Thomas is a New York State Certified Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), and has attained recertification three consecutive times; he served as a volunteer EMT with the Jordan Fire Department Ambulance until 2013, and was also a First Aid and CPR Instructor; and

WHEREAS, In addition, this extraordinary man has served in the prestigious position of Trustee of the Firemen's Association of the State of New York (FASNY) Firemen's Home since 2018; and

WHEREAS, A true asset to his profession, Martin J. Thomas has been a dedicated member of FASNY since 1979; he joined the Onondaga County Volunteer Firemen's Association (OCVFA) in 1980, where he is a Life Member and presently serves as Sergeant-At-Arms; he is also a Life

Member, Director and past President of the Northern Central New York VFA, as well as a member of the Central New York VFA; and

WHEREAS, Raised in the volunteer fire service, Martin J. Thomas' parents, Herbert and Pat Thomas, were both very involved at the local, county, sectional and state levels; he has followed in his father's footsteps as firefighter for the Memphis Fire Department, President of the Northern Central New York VFA and as Trustee of the FASNY Firemen's Home; and

WHEREAS, Martin J. Thomas graduated from Jordan-Elbridge Central High School and Auburn Community College, and has enjoyed a long and illustrious career with Crucible Industries for more than four decades; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout have been his wife, April, and their three children, as well as four grandchildren, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of his life and rejoice in his many achievements; 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, 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; Martin J. Thomas is such a firefighter; throughout 50 years of devoted service, this volunteer 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 honor Firefighter Martin J. Thomas upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition after 50 years of dedicated service to the Memphis Fire Department; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Firefighter Martin J. Thomas.