

BY: M. of A. Burdick

CELEBRATING the life and accomplishments of Mark A. Rutherford, retired firefighter, devoted family man and distinguished member of his community

WHEREAS, There are certain outstanding members of our community who, through their selfless commitment and dedication, have served to better the quality of life in our community and have had a measurable positive impact on the lives of its residents; Mark A. Rutherford was one such individual; and

WHEREAS, It is with profound sorrow and deep regret that this Legislative Body records the passing of Mark A. Rutherford, of Bedford Hills, New York, who died on Saturday, February 5, 2022, at the age of 65; and

WHEREAS, Mark Aaron Rutherford was born on September 8, 1956, to Barbara and James Rutherford, Sr. in Mount Kisco, New York; he grew up in Bedford, New York, where he graduated from Fox Lane High School in 1974; and

WHEREAS, Devoted to his community, Mark A. Rutherford joined the Bedford Hills New York Volunteer Fire Department at the young age of 18 and continued to serve for 47 years; he was also a member of the Sons of the American Legion Post No. 1575 in Katonah, New York, where he held the position of Sergeant at Arms; and

WHEREAS, In addition to his volunteer endeavors, Mark A. Rutherford worked as a foreman for the Town of Bedford Highway Department for over three decades until he officially retired in 2020; and

WHEREAS, Mark A. Rutherford was a man of many passions; he was an avid outdoorsman who loved to hunt and fish and raced his street stock car number 21R for Rutherford Racing at the Middletown Dirt Track Racing circuit; and

WHEREAS, Predeceased by his parents and brother, James L. Rutherford, Jr., Mark A. Rutherford is survived by one sister, Karen Hanratty; one nephew, James Rutherford III; his nephew's mother, Ruthanne Bowles of Warwick; and numerous friends, colleagues and fellow firefighters who will long cherish his kind and generous spirit; and

WHEREAS, Mark A. Rutherford's infinite selflessness and benevolence will shine on through his friends' and family's vivid and happy memories; his insight and strength will forever serve as a beacon of love, light and hope to the countless lives he touched; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, Mark A. Rutherford leaves behind a legacy which will long endure the passage of time and will remain as a comforting memory to all who were privileged to have known and loved such an amazing man; he will

be deeply missed and truly merits the grateful tribute of this Legislative Body; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to celebrate the life and accomplishments of Mark A. Rutherford, and to express its deepest condolences to his family; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Mark A. Rutherford.