

BY: Senator OBERACKER

COMMEMORATING the 100th Anniversary of the
Kerhonkson Volunteer Fire Company

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is proud to commemorate the Anniversary of the Kerhonkson Volunteer Fire Company and to honor its past and present firefighting members for 100 years of fire protection to the citizens of Kerhonkson, New York, and its surrounding communities on Thursday, December 26, 2024; and

WHEREAS, This auspicious occasion will be celebrated at a companywide event on Saturday, January 27, 2024; and

WHEREAS, Fire companies 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 the Kerhonkson Volunteer Fire Company have valiantly responded to all types of fire emergencies and have won the praise and respect of the community which they serve; and

WHEREAS, Volunteer firefighters serve without pay, devote hundreds of hours of time away from family, and in many cases spend their own money on firefighting gear and bear the responsibility for recruitment and retention to maintain organizational stability; and

WHEREAS, On the night of December 26, 1924, the Kerhonkson Fire Company was organized at a meeting of 31 men, chaired by Jason O. Decker, at the Arcadia Garage; an election produced the following results: James Doyle, Foreman (now called Chief); Charles Black, Assistant Foreman; Howard Humiston, Foreman of Hose; Selah Terwilliger and Percy Greene, Hydrantmen; and HR Decker and Richard Hayden, Nozzlemen; it was also decided that meetings were to be held at 8:00 on the first Monday evening of each month, a tradition still practiced; and

WHEREAS, The current Fire Chief is Steve Stephens, and the current President of the Company is Christopher D. DePew, a third-generation Kerhonkson Fireman in his 40th year of service, Past Chief, and Life Member; Kerhonkson is a small, multi-generational hamlet where its constituents are proud members of their community; and

WHEREAS, In the Kerhonkson Volunteer Fire Company's 100 years of service, there have been only 19 Fire Chiefs, proving the commitment of these devoted members; the Kerhonkson Volunteer Fire Company now includes 84 men and women who selflessly and tirelessly ensure the safety of their neighbors; and

WHEREAS, With a membership of dedicated firefighters, the record of the Kerhonkson Volunteer Fire Company in public service and fire protection is one to be applauded; for 24 hours a day, 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 the Kerhonkson Volunteer Fire Company 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, the Kerhonkson Volunteer Fire Company 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 publicly acknowledge 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 the Kerhonkson Volunteer Fire Company on December 26, 2024; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the members of the Kerhonkson Volunteer Fire Company.