

BY: Senator GRIFFO

COMMEMORATING the 80th Anniversary of Westmoreland Volunteer Fire Department to be celebrated on May 2, 2024

WHEREAS, With a membership of dedicated firefighters, for 24 hours a day, for 365 days a year, for 80 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 Westmoreland Volunteer Fire Department 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, This Legislative Body is proud to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of Westmoreland Volunteer Fire Department and to honor its past and present firefighting members for 80 years of fire protection to the citizens of Westmoreland, New York and its surrounding communities; and

WHEREAS, Located in a rural residential area in central Oneida County, Westmoreland Volunteer Fire Department has a response coverage area of 55 square miles, protecting a resident population in excess of 6,000 people; the coverage area includes a ten mile section of the New York State Thruway, I-90, between the Utica, Exit 31 and Verona, Exit 33 exchanges, the Thruway's Oneida Service Plaza, and also includes major gasoline, diesel fuel, jet fuel and natural gas pipelines; and

WHEREAS, Westmoreland Volunteer Fire Department was formed on May 2, 1944; eighteen men of the Community met and formed the fire department on that day, and later, in July of 1944, 37 men attended a meeting and were considered the charter members of the Organization; and

WHEREAS, In October of 1944, the Town Board appointed the first five Commissioners, and shortly after a 500-gallon Pump, a 1939 Brockway truck, and other vital equipment was acquired; and

WHEREAS, Westmoreland Volunteer Fire Department's first call was on March 6, 1947; in September 1947 the Fire Department was incorporated; and

WHEREAS, In 1948, Westmoreland Volunteer Fire Department's first annual banquet was held at Gavin's Restaurant; then, in 1950 the Fire Department held its first annual "Field days" and the Commissioners purchased the Department's first new fire truck which was delivered in October; and

WHEREAS, In January of 1961, Westmoreland Volunteer Fire Department held its first meeting in the new Main Street firehouse and in 1962 the "Home alert" radio system was put in service; and

WHEREAS, Coming from humble beginnings on Main Street in the Village, Westmoreland Volunteer Fire Department established their current station on Station Road; the department serves a diversified fire district, which includes single and multiple family dwellings, large and small family farms, a K-12 School District, and business structures; and

WHEREAS, Fire departments are an integral part of community protection services in every locality of our State; during the past 80 years, the courageous and devoted firefighters of Westmoreland Volunteer Fire Department have valiantly responded to all types of fire emergencies and have won the praise and respect of the community which they serve; 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 80th Anniversary of Westmoreland Volunteer Fire Department to be celebrated on May 2, 2024; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Westmoreland Fire Chief Jeffrey Grube.