

BY: Senator GALLIVAN

COMMEMORATING the 125th Anniversary of the Alden Hook & Ladder Fire Company, Inc.

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is proud to commemorate the 125th Anniversary of the Alden Hook & Ladder Fire Company, and to honor its past and present firefighting members for 125 years of fire protection to the citizens of Alden, New York, and its surrounding communities; and

WHEREAS, Fire departments are an integral part of community protection services in every locality of our State; during the past 125 years, the courageous and devoted firefighters of the Alden Hook & Ladder 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, The Alden Hook & Ladder Fire Company was approved and recognized by the Village of Alden Board of Trustees on October 20, 1899, and was originally known as "Rescue Hook & Ladder"; and

WHEREAS, Prior to the creation of the Alden Hook & Ladder Fire Company, the Village of Alden Board of Trustees granted the establishment of the Alden Hose Company on July 31, 1899; both the Alden Hose Company and the Rescue Hook & Ladder Company worked together to protect the citizens and property of the Village of Alden, Town of Alden, and neighboring municipalities; and

WHEREAS, The Alden Hook & Ladder Ladies Auxiliary was established in 1933; and

WHEREAS, The former Rescue Hook & Ladder Company formally incorporated on June 30, 1949, as the Alden Hook & Ladder Fire Company; and

WHEREAS, Although the Alden Hose Company still exists on paper in the company files, the membership of the Alden Hose" Company became official members of the Alden Hook & Ladder Fire Company in March of 1952; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the years of protecting the citizens and properties of the Village and Town of Alden, the Alden Hook & Ladder Fire Company changed with the times and increased the fire and rescue services they provided, including: the addition of the Alden Fire Company - Underwater Recovery Team (SCUBA) in the late 1950s; the establishment of a formal First Aid Squad in 1960; and the establishment of the Alden Hook & Ladder Benevolent Association in 1979, to support its members and families in their personal times of need; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, the department was one of the first in the area to purchase a Hurst Auto Rescue Tool known as the "Jaws of Life," following a tragic accident after the local Prom on Henskee Road; and

WHEREAS, In 1980, the Alden Hook & Ladder Fire Company accepted its first female member as an active member of the rescue squad; in the summer of 1985, to increase the protection and decrease response times in the Town of Alden, the membership of the Alden Hook & Ladder Fire Company built and dedicated the Alden Substation currently known as Alden Station No. 2; and

WHEREAS, On December 1, 1998, the Alden Hook & Ladder Fire Company voted unanimously to follow the Village Boards actions and created the first village EMS department in all of New York State; and

WHEREAS, With a membership of dedicated firefighters, the record of the Alden Hook & Ladder Fire Company in public service and fire protection is one to be envied; for 24 hours a day, for 365 days a year, for 125 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 Alden Hook & Ladder 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 Alden Hook & Ladder Fire Company reflects the history and development of firefighting over the past 125 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 125th Anniversary of the Alden Hook & Ladder Fire Company; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Alden Hook & Ladder Fire Company, Inc.