

Assembly Resolution No. 168

BY: M. of A. Peoples-Stokes

MOURNING the untimely death and paying tribute to the life and heroic service of Firefighter Jason Arno who died in the line of duty on March 1, 2023

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to convey its grateful appreciation and heartfelt regret in recognition of the loss of a courageous and hardworking firefighter who dedicated his purposeful life and career in faithful service to both his family and the residents of New York State; and

WHEREAS, It is with profound sadness that this Legislative Body records the tragic and untimely death of Firefighter Jason "Jay" D. Arno, who made the ultimate sacrifice on Wednesday, March 1, 2023, at the age of 37; and

WHEREAS, Around 10 a.m., Jason D. Arno, a three-year member of Buffalo Fire Department Engine 2, stationed at Elmwood Avenue and Virginia Street in the neighborhood of Allentown, was fighting a four-alarm blaze at DC Theatricks on Main Street when work being done on the structure with blowtorches appeared to cause a backdraft which sent flames shooting out of the three-story building in what at first appeared to be an explosion; and

WHEREAS, Firefighter Jason D. Arno was caught in the partial building collapse and trapped about 30-40 feet inside; the department lost contact with him shortly after a mayday call came through the radio, and unfortunately, due to the ferocity of the fire, his fellow firefighters could not reach him and he succumbed to the deadly blaze; and

WHEREAS, Upon the recovery of his body, Firefighter Jason D. Arno was solemnly greeted by his comrades who gave him a stoic salute, honoring his bravery and memorializing the loss of a young man who lived a meritorious life of service to his beloved Buffalo community; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Mayor Byron W. Brown has asked for buildings and other structures and landmarks, including Buffalo City Hall, the Peace Bridge and Niagara Falls, to be lit up in red through Sunday and directed all City of Buffalo flags to be flown at half-mast; and

WHEREAS, Born on August 27, 1985, Jason D. Arno graduated from Canisius High School in 2003; during high school, he played football for the Crusaders, winning postseason accolades during his junior year; and

WHEREAS, Predeceased by his stepfather, John, Firefighter Jason D. Arno is survived by his wife, the former Sarah-Elizabeth Tierney; one daughter, Olivia Louise; his mother, Sheryl; his father, David (Julie); three brothers, Delton (Ashley), Noah and Nic; four sisters, Lydia, Erikka, Alyssa, and Abigail; mother-in-law, Karen Tierney; father-in-law, Robert (Deborah) Tierney; many aunts, uncles, nieces and

nephews; and numerous friends; as well as a legion of fellow firefighters who will long cherish his memory; and

WHEREAS, Jason D. Arno's greatest joy in life was his family, everything in his life came second to his daughter, who was his pride and joy; and

WHEREAS, Jason D. Arno was known for his strong work ethic, warm smile, and for being an all-around good guy; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, Firefighter Jason D. Arno 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 young 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 honor the life and heroic actions of Firefighter Jason D. Arno, 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 Firefighter Jason D. Arno.