

BY: M. of A. Slater

COMMEMORATING the 101st Anniversary of the Mohegan
Volunteer Fire Association

WHEREAS, Fire departments are an integral part of community protection services in every locality of our State; for 101 years, the Mohegan Volunteer Fire Association has worked to provide the best possible emergency service to the people of Mohegan, New York, and to minimize suffering, and loss of life and property incurred by fire, accidents, disasters, and medical emergencies; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 101st Anniversary of the Mohegan Volunteer Fire Association, celebrated on February 21, 2023; and

WHEREAS, On February 21, 1922, a group of local citizens met in the little Mohegan Schoolhouse, presently known as The Rugged Boot shoe store, for the purpose of organizing a fire department; and

WHEREAS, The meeting that inspired the creation of the Mohegan Volunteer Fire Association occurred after a fire in one of Mohegan, New York's hotels; the following men were believed to have been in attendance at that impactful meeting: Theodore Hill, Jr., H. Field Horne, Arthur Horton, J.W. Horne, William O'Neill, James Gilmartin, John Wubbe, James Cuatt, Bernard McCord, Addison Garland, Albert Heady, David Travis, Everett Travis, Albert Travis, George Jetter, J. Edward Jetter, Olie Odell, Robert Foell, William Foell, Herman Croft, Christopher Jetter, William Zugner, Cleveland Curry, and Roy Heady; and

WHEREAS, In the early 20th century, Lake Mohegan's many clubs and hotels attracted tourists as a hub for live bands and Broadway entertainment outside of New York City; the summer crowds swelled with visitors from all over the region and big-name performers; and

WHEREAS, Prior to 1922, fires were fought by the Peekskill Fire Companies and the Yorktown Heights Engine Company, however, their effectiveness in being able to reach a fire in time to save lives and property was limited; the growth in tourism and population surrounding the Lake Mohegan community led to a need to develop a fire department; and

WHEREAS, The brave firefighters of the Mohegan Volunteer Fire Association 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 Mohegan Volunteer Fire Association reflects the history and development of firefighting over the past 101 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 selflessly 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 101st Anniversary of the Mohegan Volunteer Fire Association; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Mohegan Volunteer Fire Association.