

BY: Senator BORRELLO

COMMEMORATING the 100th Anniversary of the
Fluvanna Fire Department

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and honor those institutions whose commitment to public service, safety, and community welfare has contributed significantly to the quality of life of the citizens of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Fluvanna Fire Department, to be celebrated on Saturday, May 30, 2026; and

WHEREAS, The Fluvanna Fire Department traces its origins to the summer of 1925, following a devastating fire in the Elmhurst area that destroyed numerous cottages and revealed the urgent need for a nearby, organized fire protection service, as the closest departments at that time were located in Jamestown, Celoron, and Bemus Point; and

WHEREAS, In response to this need, local residents of the Fluvanna area, with the assistance of DeForest Peterson, sought guidance from Douglas Krupp, Clayton Bratt, and Ed Bollman of the Celoron Fire Department, culminating in a community meeting held on October 15, 1925, at the local schoolhouse, where the Fluvanna Fire Department was formally organized; and

WHEREAS, At that historic meeting, Fred B. Strunk was elected President, Charles G. Sondell as Foreman, Glenn D. Clark as First Assistant Foreman, and Walter G. Johnson as Second Assistant Foreman, leading approximately 50 active charter members and 15 social members who committed themselves to protecting their community; and

WHEREAS, Through membership fees, annual dues, and a determined fundraising campaign, the fledgling department raised nearly \$5,000 toward the purchase of firefighting apparatus, enabling the acquisition in December 1925 of a Peter Pirsch triple combination pumper chemical and hose truck, along with essential hose and equipment, and later a Federal Doublehead Siren Alarm; and

WHEREAS, The department formally applied for membership in the Chautauqua County Firemen's Association in December 1925, and was incorporated under the laws of the State of New York in May 1926, serving the Towns of Ellicott and Ellery under the guidance of a dedicated board of directors; and

WHEREAS, From its earliest years, the Fluvanna Fire Department demonstrated extraordinary resilience and community spirit, raising funds through dances, dinners, fish fries, carnivals, turkey raffles, bingo, and other events, transforming its fire hall into a vital community gathering place and sustaining the department through periods

of economic hardship and national crisis; and

WHEREAS, The department and its members responded bravely to numerous emergencies and tragedies, including the devastating Richfield fire of June 17, 1934, the fire that damaged the Fluvanna Fire Hall later that same year, lightning strikes in 1946, transportation accidents, and countless fires and emergencies throughout the district, often under challenging conditions and with limited resources; and

WHEREAS, Over the decades, the Fluvanna Fire Department continually evolved to meet the changing needs of the community through the establishment of additional stations, the formation of a First Aid Unit, acquisition of tankers, pumpers, foam trucks, ambulances, emergency and rescue equipment, installation of underground water tanks, and ongoing modernization of facilities; and

WHEREAS, The Fluvanna Fire Department has also distinguished itself through regional and statewide participation, earning accolades such as the 1940 Trophy for Best Appearing Combined Auxiliary and Company at the New York State Convention, and through the leadership of members who served prominently in county and statewide fire service organizations; and

WHEREAS, From its original charter members in 1926 to the generations of volunteers who followed, including Edwin Hooper, the last surviving charter member as of 2001, the Fluvanna Fire Department stands as a testament to selfless service, civic pride, and unwavering dedication to the protection of life and property; and

WHEREAS, Today, as it marks 100 years of service, the Fluvanna Fire Department continues to exemplify the highest ideals of volunteer fire service, earning the gratitude, respect, and admiration of the citizens it serves and of this great State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Fluvanna Fire Department, honoring its rich history, its devoted members past and present, and its enduring contributions to the safety and well-being of the communities of Ellicott, Ellery, and the surrounding region; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Fluvanna Fire Department.