

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring the Beacon Volunteer Ambulance Corps upon the occasion of its 50th Anniversary

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize that the quality and character of life in the communities across New York State are reflective of the concerned and dedicated efforts of those organizations and individuals who would devote themselves to the welfare of the community and its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor the Beacon Volunteer Ambulance Corps upon the occasion of its 50th Anniversary; and

WHEREAS, The impetus behind the Beacon Volunteer Ambulance Corps was Walter Detwiller, a Beacon police officer and a Beacon Engine Company member whose son's life was saved by a volunteer ambulance corps while he was living in New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, Walter Detwiller thought that it would greatly benefit the City of Beacon to have its own ambulance service and went to work on the project; he enlisted the help of Joe Catalano and George Cable and the members of the Beacon Engine Company and 29 people were recruited to start the Beacon Volunteer Ambulance Corps; and

WHEREAS, Initially housed at the Beacon Engine Company, the Beacon Volunteer Ambulance Corps soon outgrew the facilities and purchased an old two bay garage for its new home; and

WHEREAS, As the years passed, the Beacon Volunteer Ambulance Corps again felt growing pains and construction on its current building commenced in 1975 and lasted for five long years; and

WHEREAS, The work on the Beacon Volunteer Ambulance Corps Headquarters was done primarily by volunteers, while the heavy construction was through the Naval Reserve Seabee Unit located in the area; the building was dedicated in May 1980; and

WHEREAS, At the onset, there was no county dispatch system so members of the Beacon Volunteer Ambulance Corps had phones installed in their homes to receive emergency calls; when a call came in, they would get on the phone and call members to man the ambulance; and

WHEREAS, In 1980, the Beacon Police Department began to answer the phone lines and they would dispatch the Beacon Volunteer Ambulance Corps by way of pagers; this practice continued until 1984, when the corps joined the Dutchess County Bureau of Fire dispatch system, which is still being used today; and

WHEREAS, One of the busiest volunteer services in Dutchess County, the Beacon Volunteer Ambulance Corps' 40 active members respond to approximately 2400 calls per year in the City of Beacon and parts of the Town of Fishkill; and

WHEREAS, Since its incorporation on April 16, 1959, the Beacon Volunteer Ambulance Corps has changed and upgraded its service many times; it became New York State Certified in 1990 and Defibrillation Certified in 1991, and has provided complete Advanced Life Support by way of contract providers since 1996; and

WHEREAS, The Beacon Volunteer Ambulance Corps currently runs a fleet of three modern, fully equipped, New York State Certified ambulances, as well as a Basic Life Support First Response vehicle and a Mass Casualty Incident Trailer, which was recently added; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body cannot express sufficient gratitude to those devoted individuals who recognize that the preservation of life is a sacred responsibility and who make that responsibility their own by serving as EMS volunteers; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when organiza-

tions of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of the great State of New York; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor the Beacon Volunteer Ambulance Corps upon the occasion of its 50th Anniversary, fully confident that this outstanding organization will continue to enjoy the sparkling success which has so characterized its past; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Beacon Volunteer Ambulance Corps.