

BY: Senator BONACIC

HONORING 1st Assistant Chief John Avery III upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Firefighter of the Year Award by the Ulster County Volunteer Firemen's Association on July 27, 2018

WHEREAS, Citizens across our State and Nation are inspired by and indebted to our noble volunteer firefighters who exhibit courage and bravery every day in the course of their duties; and

WHEREAS, Volunteer firefighters exemplify the power of human compassion and the strength of the American spirit through actions of the most heroic magnitude; their sacrifices and their selfless dedication merit tribute and recognition by all citizens of this great country; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor 1st Assistant Chief John Avery III upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Firefighter of the Year Award by the Ulster County Volunteer Firemen's Association to be celebrated at an event on Friday, July 27, 2018, at the Olivebridge Fire Department in Olivebridge, New York; and

WHEREAS, A vital member and well-respected leader of the Ellenville Fire District, 1st Assistant Chief John Avery III is receiving this prestigious award for successfully rescuing multiple families during a fire in Ellenville, New York; and

WHEREAS, On March 3, 2018, at approximately 2:20 am, the Ellenville Fire District was dispatched to a porch fire at 200 South Main Street, within Emerald Pond Estates in the Village of Ellenville; Chief John Avery III was quickly notified by the Ellenville Police that it was a working fire, and the fire department was needed as soon as possible due to the number of residents who were sleeping in their apartments; and

WHEREAS, After a second alarm was transmitted, Chief John Avery III arrived on the scene within a few moments; he observed the officers attempting to gain access to the apartments, and without hesitation or fear for his own safety, Chief Avery began kicking the doors in one by one alongside the officers; and

WHEREAS, Through his steadfast efforts and due diligence, Chief John Avery III awakened numerous sleeping residents and through the thick, black smoke, helped guide them to safety outside; and

WHEREAS, Firefighters unwaveringly serve our great State with pride, valor, and integrity; these respected volunteers are often the first to respond to an emergency, whether the emergency is a fire, transportation accident, natural disaster, act of terrorism, medical crisis, or spill of hazardous materials; and

WHEREAS, It takes a special dedication, a strong desire to help others and a tireless sense of community to forsake precious time with family and friends to respond to the signal that a neighbor is in need;

Chief John Avery III is such a firefighter; throughout many years of devoted service, this volunteer heroically performed, above and beyond the call of duty, those responsibilities which define the task of fire protection; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor 1st Assistant Chief John Avery III upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Firefighter of the Year Award by the Ulster County Volunteer Firemen's Association on July 27, 2018; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to 1st Assistant Chief John Avery III.