Assembly Resolution No. 82

BY: M. of A. Pichardo

PAYING tribute to the life and valiant service of Battalion Chief Michael J. Fahy who died in the line of duty on September 27, 2016

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

WHEREAS, 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, Many firefighters have lost their lives to save the lives of others; each and every day, they face danger and peril without fear and perform their job with the utmost concern and professionalism; Battalion Chief Michael J. Fahy was one such firefighter who died doing what he loved; and

WHEREAS, Following in the footsteps of his hero and father, former Battalion Chief Thomas J. Fahy, Battalion Chief Michael J. Fahy heroically performed, above and beyond the call of duty, those responsibilities which define the task of fire protection for almost two decades; and

WHEREAS, In May of 1999, Michael J. Fahy was appointed as a firefighter and was assigned to Engine Company 35 in Harlem, where he worked for five years before transferring to Ladder 14, located in the same firehouse; and

WHEREAS, In 2004, Michael J. Fahy was promoted to the position of Lieutenant and was assigned to Battalion 3 in the Bronx, before being assigned to Engine 83 in the South Bronx; upon his promotion to Captain in 2012, he was transferred to Division 1 in lower Manhattan, where he worked in multiple fire companies; after being promoted to Battalion Chief, he first worked in Battalion 20 in the Bronx before transferring to Battalion 19; and

WHEREAS, A devoted and courageous firefighter for 17 years, Battalion Chief Michael J. Fahy was tragically killed in the line of duty on Tuesday, September 27, 2016; this valiant firefighter died from injuries sustained at an explosion in the Kingsbridge section of the Bronx; and

WHEREAS, On that fateful morning, Battalion Chief Michael J. Fahy and several fire units responded to calls reporting a gas odor at the intersection of West 234th Street and Irwin Avenue; Battalion Chief Fahy, serving as Incident Commander, ordered fire units to search for the source of the gas odor, and to evacuate possible endangered occupants of homes in the vicinity of the odor; and

WHEREAS, Firefighters quickly determined the gas was emanating from 304 West 234th Street and, at about 7:30 a.m., an explosion occurred on the top floor of the house; Battalion Chief Michael J. Fahy was struck and fatally injured by falling debris; he was transported to New York-Presbyterian/The Allen Hospital where he died from his injuries; and

WHEREAS, Battalion Chief Michael J. Fahy is survived by his loving wife, Fiona, and his three treasured children, as well as a legion of fellow firefighters and friends who will long cherish his memory; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his meritorious life, Battalion Chief Michael J. Fahy touched many through his kindness and commitment to service, and, as we recall the loss of this great man, we memorialize his remarkable life and the enormous impact he had on everyone with whom he came in contact; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to convey its grateful appreciation and heartfelt regret in recognition of a courageous firefighter who dedicated his purposeful life and career in faithful service to his family and community; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to pay tribute to the life and valiant service of Battalion Chief Michael J. Fahy who died in the line of duty on September 27, 2016; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Battalion Chief Michael J. Fahy.