

BY: Senator BORRELLO

HONORING Firefighter Eva Baker-Cotton upon the occasion of her designation for special recognition after 60 years of dedicated service to the Friendship Volunteer Fire Department

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 Firefighter Eva Baker-Cotton upon the occasion of her designation for special recognition after 60 years of dedicated service to the Friendship Volunteer Fire Department, celebrated at the Allegany County Volunteer Firemen's Association's 104th Annual Convention on Wednesday, July 10, 2019; and

WHEREAS, Eva Baker-Cotton joined the Friendship Volunteer Fire Department in March of 1959, initially as a member of the Ladies Auxiliary; she and the other ladies would prepare hot coffee, and soup and sandwiches for the firefighters, and serve it at either the fire house or at the scene of a call; and

WHEREAS, When the Ladies Auxiliary dissolved in the late 1980s, Eva Baker-Cotton decided to take the New York State Fire Police class; after passing the exam, she became an active firefighter and joined the Friendship Volunteer Fire Department; and

WHEREAS, With her throughout have been her four sons, Bruce, Brian, Dale and Dean, as well as several grandchildren, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of her life and rejoice in her many achievements; and

WHEREAS, Following in her footsteps, Eva Baker-Cotton's two younger sons, Dale and Dean, were both active members of the Friendship Volunteer Fire Department and served as Chiefs; 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; Eva Baker-Cotton is one such firefighter; throughout 60 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 Firefighter Eva Baker-Cotton upon the occasion of her designation for special recognition after 60 years of dedicated service to the Friendship Volunteer Fire Department; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Firefighter Eva Baker-Cotton.