

BY: Senator O'MARA

COMMENDING Firefighter Paul T. Betts upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition after 50 years of dedicated service to the Southport 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 commend Firefighter Paul T. Betts upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition after 50 years of dedicated service to the Southport Fire Department to be celebrated at its Annual Banquet in Elmira, New York, on Saturday, February 15, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Paul T. Betts joined the Southport Fire Department in 1970; throughout his 50 years of service, he has been a true pillar of excellence with outstanding attendance and completing many state fire training courses; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, Paul T. Betts has been instrumental to the success of department fundraisers and has performed chaplain duties when needed; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout his illustrious 50-year career was his late wife, Carol, and their 5 children, as well as countless foster children, all of whom feel privileged to be part of and rejoice in his many achievements; 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; Paul T. Betts is such a firefighter; throughout his 50 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

commend Firefighter Paul T. Betts upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition after 50 years of dedicated service to the Southport Fire Department; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Firefighter Paul T. Betts.