

**BY:** Senator BORRELLO

**COMMEMORATING** the 100th Anniversary of the Bemus Point Volunteer Fire Company, on February 27, 2020

**WHEREAS,** This Legislative Body is proud to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Bemus Point Volunteer Fire Company, and to honor its past and present firefighting members for 100 years of fire protection to the citizens of the Village of Bemus Point and its surrounding communities; and

**WHEREAS,** In a meeting held on February 27, 1920, the trustees of the Village of Bemus Point, New York, receive a petition to organize a fire company for the protection of lives and property in the Village; and

**WHEREAS,** The petition was granted, and the following officers were nominated and approved by the Village board: Fire Chief AC Russ, 1st Assistant Chief Clarence Hansen, 2nd Assistant Clark Ward, and Wardens AG Barrett and LJ Skillman; and

**WHEREAS,** The 24 men who were appointed by the Village board as the original members of the Bemus Point Fire Department included: Clarence H. Hansen, A.C. Russ, Frank Skillman, Howard Bemus, R.A. Scofield, Lester J. Skillman, Arthur Carpenter, Dewey Arnold, A.V. Johnson, Adolph Hansen, Glenn Norton, Earl Thompson, Delbert Johnson, J.W. Smiley, Clark L. Lord, Frank Putnam, J.H. Kellogg, Merl Sparling, Howard Reynolds, Floyd Bowen, Howard Russ, Victor Norton, Ernest Russ, and Frank Thompson; and

**WHEREAS,** Fire departments are an integral part of community protection services in every locality of our State; during the past 100 years, the courageous and devoted firefighters of the Bemus Point Volunteer Fire Company have valiantly responded to all types of fire emergencies and have won the praise and respect of the community which they serve; and

**WHEREAS,** With a membership of dedicated firefighters, the record of the Bemus Point Volunteer Fire Company in public service and fire protection is one to be envied; for 24 hours a day, for 365 days a year, for 100 years, whenever the alarm sounded, these noble volunteers left their homes and went to the aid of their neighbors; and

**WHEREAS,** The brave firefighters of the Bemus Point Volunteer Fire Company are prepared to risk their lives every day to help save the lives of others and to protect homes and property from the destruction caused by fire; and

**WHEREAS,** In addition to the skill and devoted service demonstrated by individual firefighters, the Bemus Point Volunteer Fire Company reflects the history and development of firefighting over the past 100 years; and

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

**WHEREAS,** It is the sense of this Legislative Body that we should give special recognition to those who work so assiduously for the betterment of their communities, and acknowledge publicly the heroic good works performed by the volunteer fire departments of this great Empire State, their officers and auxiliaries; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to proudly commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Bemus Point Volunteer Fire Company; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Steven Hayes, President, Bemus Point Volunteer Fire Company.