

**BY:** Senator AKSHAR

**COMMEMORATING** the 75th Anniversary of the Union  
Center Fire Company of Endicott, New York

**WHEREAS,** This Legislative Body is proud to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Union Center Fire Company and to honor its past and present firefighting members for 75 years of fire protection to the citizens of Endicott, and its surrounding communities; and

**WHEREAS,** Fire departments are an integral part of community protection services in every locality of our State; during the past 75 years, the courageous and devoted firefighters of the Union Center 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,** In 1947, the Union Center Fire Company was established with one station located at 1805 Union Center Highway in Endicott; over the years, this station has been expanded, by purchasing neighboring property in 2006, and building a larger station to meet the needs of the community; today, the station is located at 1811 Union Center-Maine Highway; and

**WHEREAS,** As the population grew and shifted to the North Side area, a two-bay station was built at 1209 Taft Avenue, which has since been upgraded to a four-bay station; and

**WHEREAS,** In the mid-1960s, the Union Center Fire Company started a First Aid Team, and in 1992, an EMS team was formed; the team is made up of personnel with CPR training, New York State Certified First Responders, Emergency Medical Technicians, and Paramedics; and

**WHEREAS,** The EMS team is trained to use an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) for cardiac arrest patients, oxygen, and airway management equipment, all of which is contained in their EMS response vehicle; the equipment and personnel are dispatched to respond in advance of an ambulance to get medical aid to a patient as quickly as possible; and

**WHEREAS,** All emergency calls are received at Broome County's state-of-the-art 911 Communications Center, and all alarms are radio-dispatched to its personnel through this Center; upon receiving an alarm, members respond to the station and respond with the proper emergency equipment to the scene; and

**WHEREAS,** Currently, the Union Center Fire Company is led by Mark Belensky, Chief; Dan Hoeflein, 1st Assistant Chief; Anthony Silvestri, 2nd Assistant Chief; John VanKuren, Day Captain; Brian Haas, Lieutenant; and its Board of Directors, Wes Miga, President and Treasurer; Jim Brown, Vice-President; Barrilyn Polhamus, Secretary; Bob Bealo, Director at Large; and

**WHEREAS,** With a membership of dedicated firefighters, the record of the Union Center Fire Company in public service and fire protection is one to be envied; for 24 hours a day, for 365 days a year, for 75 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 Union Center 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 Union Center Fire Company reflects the history and development of firefighting over the past 75 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 75th Anniversary of the Union Center Fire Company; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Union Center Fire Company.