

**BY:** Senator RITCHIE

**COMMEMORATING** the 100th Anniversary of the  
Heuvelton Volunteer Fire Department

**WHEREAS,** This Legislative Body is proud to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Heuvelton Volunteer Fire Department and to honor its past and present firefighting members for their providing 100 years of fire protection to the citizens of Heuvelton, New York, and its surrounding communities; and

**WHEREAS,** The Heuvelton Volunteer Fire Department's rich heritage is rooted in the efforts of a small group of volunteers who came together a century ago to protect the homes and businesses of their neighbors and friends; and

**WHEREAS,** Under the leadership of Claude H. Preston, the Department's first chief, 26 charter members organized the Heuvelton Volunteer Fire Department on April 17, 1921; and

**WHEREAS,** Since then, hundreds of men and women have proudly served in the ranks of the volunteer fire service in Heuvelton; and

**WHEREAS,** The Department originally rang the fire bell from St. Raphael's Church bell tower until 1932, when a siren was put into service as a way to help alert the members and the community; and

**WHEREAS,** The Heuvelton Volunteer Fire Department's first piece of fire apparatus was a hand drawn chemical cart that was purchased in 1924 to help extinguish blazes; this did not, however, eliminate the use of buckets, which remained in use to refill the cylinders as soon as they were emptied; and

**WHEREAS,** In 1930, the Department purchased its first "modern" fire engine from the Sanford Motor Truck Company for \$7,250; currently, this vehicle is on display at the firehouse; and

**WHEREAS,** Over the years, the Department has assembled an extensive collection of modern firefighting equipment, including tankers, which have allowed members to protect the Heuvelton community and surrounding area, responding to a wide variety of emergencies; and

**WHEREAS,** Thanks to extensive and regular training, the Heuvelton Volunteer Fire Department and its members are an integral part of community protection services for surrounding communities, as well as St. Lawrence County's and New York State's emergency services; and

**WHEREAS,** Over the past 100 years, the courageous and devoted firefighters of the Heuvelton Volunteer Fire Department 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 Heuvelton Volunteer Fire Department in public service and fire protection is one to be envied; and

**WHEREAS,** For 24 hours a day, 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 Heuvelton Volunteer Fire Department 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,** 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 Heuvelton Volunteer Fire Department to be celebrated on April 17, 2021; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Heuvelton Volunteer Fire Department.