

**BY:** Senator STEC

**HONORING** Bill Houck upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition after 50 years of dedicated service to the Horicon Volunteer Fire Company

**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 Bill Houck upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition after 50 years of dedicated service to the Horicon Volunteer Fire Company; and

**WHEREAS,** Born in Chittenango, New York, in 1943, Bill Houck proudly served his country as a Surveyor in the United States Army in Iran during the Vietnam conflict from 1965-1966; and

**WHEREAS,** Bill Houck moved to Brant Lake, New York, and joined the Horicon Volunteer Fire Company in December of 1970, making his first call in 1971; throughout his five decades of service, he has responded to approximately 4,000 calls; and

**WHEREAS,** Always ready and willing to lend a helping hand and share his knowledge, Bill Houck mentored many young firefighters, teaching them about pumps, how to tie knots, about brush fires, and how to obey the speed limit; and

**WHEREAS,** Bill Houck also organized historical Company documents, served on the Horicon Fire Department Board of Directors for 25 years and used his masonry skills to help build the Adirondack Firehouse and many construction projects at the Brant Lake Firehouse; and

**WHEREAS,** In addition to his work with the Fire Company, Bill Houck served the Horicon and Hague community from 1970-1998 as a forest ranger; throughout his tenure, he responded to hundreds of Adirondack searches, rescues, and forest fires, and answered the call as part of a ranger team fighting fires in Idaho, California, Wisconsin and Montana; today, he is a member of the board of the Forest Ranger Scholarship Fund; and

**WHEREAS,** Bill Houck was also a certified teacher with the New York State trapper training program, teaching and mentoring many people as they earned their trapping and hunting licenses; and

**WHEREAS,** With him throughout have been his wife, Joyce; their two sons, Russell and Roger (Melanie); and three grandchildren, Hannah, Clara and Lydia; as well as Michael Sallach, who is like a son to him; all of them truly feel privileged to be a part of his life and rejoice in his 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; Bill Houck is one such firefighter; throughout 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 honor Bill Houck upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition after 50 years of dedicated service to the Horicon Volunteer Fire Company; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Bill Houck.