Assembly Resolution No. 1015

BY: M. of A. Gallahan

HONORING Gary Baxter upon the occasion of his retirement after 15 years of distinguished public service to Ontario County, New York

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to acknowledge those individuals whose professional lives and civic endeavors serve to enhance the stature of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Gary Baxter upon the occasion of his retirement after 15 years of distinguished public service as Ontario County Treasurer; and

WHEREAS, A graduate of Geneva High School, Gary Baxter went on to earn his Associate in Applied Science in Criminal Justice degree from the Community College of the Finger Lakes; and

WHEREAS, Gary Baxter's career in public service began in 1978 when he was sworn in as a police officer for the City of Geneva; serving as a D.A.R.E. officer and detective for the City of Geneva Police Department from 1989 to 1998, he established one of the first D.A.R.E. programs in New York State in the Geneva City School District; and

WHEREAS, Prior to his appointment as County Treasurer, Gary Baxter proudly served as Ontario County Deputy Sheriff from 2000 to 2005; and

WHEREAS, First appointed to the position from which he will retire by Governor George Pataki, Gary Baxter went on to secure his first election win as Ontario Country Treasurer in 2006, and later was re-elected in 2007, 2011, 2015, 2019, and again in 2023; and

WHEREAS, During his tenure as County Treasurer, Gary Baxter served as president of the New York State Treasurers and Finance Officers Association; and

WHEREAS, For the past 15 years, Gary Baxter rendered faithful, conscientious, and valuable service to the citizens of Ontario County; and

WHEREAS, Gary Baxter, in acts of true compassion and care for others, saved many families and residents under his jurisdiction from losing their homes by making certain that he personally contacted every landowner whose property was at stake of reaching the auction roll; and

WHEREAS, In his capacity as Ontario County Treasurer, Gary Baxter served with loyalty, honor and distinction; and

WHEREAS, A credit to his active involvement in his community, Gary Baxter is a past member of the NYS D.A.R.E. Officer's Association, past charter member and president of the Police Local Union 3471, and past

member and 9 County Regional Representative of the NYS Police Juvenile Officer's Association; and

WHEREAS, In addition to his involvement in his community, Gary Baxter has owned and operated two successful businesses, Baxter's Catering and Mac's Driving School; he is also a lifelong member of the Hydrant Hose Fire Department in Geneva, New York, where he held the roles of president, financial secretary, Board of Directors chairman, building committee chairman, and City of Geneva fire commissioner; he also is a past president of the Ontario County Volunteer Firemen's Association; and

WHEREAS, Gary Baxter has also previously served as a member of the Geneva Boys and Girls Club Board of Directors, home school liaison for the Geneva City School District, member of the A&FM Ark Lodge 33, liaison between the City of Geneva and Town of Geneva, and served as an at large City of Geneva Counselor from 1999 to 2005; and

WHEREAS, An active and fierce advocate for our nation's veterans, Gary Baxter is also a past charter treasurer, past commander, and member of the Sons of the American Legion, through the Geneva Winnek Post No. 396; and

WHEREAS, With unrelenting commitment to his community, Gary Baxter became active in the scouting community when his son, Gordy, became a Tiger Scout in Pack 5; since then, he has served in the capacities of den leader, assistant scoutmaster, and scoutmaster; he currently serves on the Seneca Waterways Boy Scout Council Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout have been his beloved wife of 42 years, Donna; their cherished children, Gordon and Thomas; and two adored grandchildren, Carson and Hugh, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of his life and rejoice in his many achievements; and

WHEREAS, In his official acts, Gary Baxter was governed by a keen sense of duty and always showed a unique grasp of human problems; and

WHEREAS, During his tenure serving Ontario County, Gary Baxter earned the admiration, esteem, and affection of his colleagues; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Gary Baxter upon the occasion of his retirement after 15 years of distinguished service; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Gary Baxter.