Assembly Resolution No. 342

BY: M. of A. Miller

HONORING Chief Walter P. Schmitt Jr. upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition after 50 years of dedicated service to the West Oneonta Fire Department

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, 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 Chief Walter P. Schmitt Jr. upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition after 50 years of dedicated service to the West Oneonta Volunteer Fire Department to be celebrated Sunday, May 7, 2023, at the Oneonta Town Hall; and

WHEREAS, Walter P. Schmitt Jr. joined the West Oneonta Fire Department in February of 1973; throughout his 50 years of service, he held several positions within the Department including 2nd Assistant Chief, 1st Assistant Chief, and currently, Chief of the Department; he became Chief in 1989, and has held that position since; and

WHEREAS, In 1987, Walter P. Schmitt Jr., on behalf of the West Oneonta Fire Department, successfully advocated for, and obtained, a grant from Marcy-South Powerline for a 4x4 pickup truck to be used as a utility and brush truck for the Department; in the years since, Walter P. Schmitt Jr. helped secure several grants from various sources for new and added equipment, as well as replacement vehicles for the original fleet; and

WHEREAS, Chief Walter P. Schmitt Jr. has been extremely active in supporting the NYS Association of Fire Chiefs yearly hands-on training, and has also scheduled several FASNY training sessions for the West Oneonta Fire Department and surrounding departments; furthermore, he has supported the NYS Fire Academy at Montour Falls, supplying equipment to run pump and water supply refreshers for training officers; and

WHEREAS, Most recently, Chief Walter P. Schmitt Jr. has been instrumental in helping to secure a new replacement engine for both of the Department's attack engines; the new truck was granted under the Chief's able leadership in a vote on April 18, 2023; 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; Chief Walter P. Schmitt Jr. 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 Walter P. Schmitt Jr. upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition after 50 years of dedicated service to the West Oneonta Fire Department; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Chief Walter P. Schmitt Jr.