Senate Resolution No. 1933

BY: Senator MURRAY

COMMEMORATING the 100th Anniversary of the Yaphank Fire Department

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and honor those organizations which have demonstrated a sustained commitment to the safety, well-being, and vitality of their communities; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Yaphank Fire Department, to be celebrated in 2026; and

WHEREAS, The Yaphank Fire Department, officially organized on September 14, 1926, stands as the first fire department established to serve its local communities, marking the beginning of a proud tradition of volunteerism and public service in the hamlets of Yaphank, Shirley, and Medford within the Town of Brookhaven; and

WHEREAS, For a century, the Yaphank Fire Department has provided essential fire, rescue, and emergency medical services to more than 6,000 residents across an area exceeding 14 square miles, maintaining a steadfast commitment to 24-hour rapid response coverage; and

WHEREAS, Today, the department is comprised of approximately 110 dedicated volunteer members and paid EMS responders, all of whom have pledged to uphold its mission to protect lives and property with professionalism, courage, and compassion; and

WHEREAS, The early leadership of the department was established through the election of its first Fire Commission on June 23, 1927, under the chairmanship of Justice of the Peace Frederick P. Marchant, alongside commissioners James Scott, John Davis Sr., Gustave Neuss, and P.M. Ayvad, laying the foundation for generations of exemplary service; and

WHEREAS, Since its inception, the department has been guided by 35 Chiefs, whose leadership has shaped its growth and resilience, beginning with Albert Davis, James Coombs, and Heywood Shannon in 1926, and including long-serving and dedicated leaders such as Edward N. Davis, who served from 1927 to 1943; and

WHEREAS, The Yaphank Fire Department's history reflects a proud tradition of family and community involvement, with multiple generations of families serving, including father-and-son Chiefs and siblings who have each contributed to its legacy of leadership and service; and

WHEREAS, From its humble beginnings in an octagonal former schoolhouse built in 1854 and repurposed as its first firehouse, to the construction and expansion of modern facilities, the Yaphank Fire Department has continually evolved to meet the growing needs of its

community; and

WHEREAS, Throughout its history, the department has demonstrated remarkable adaptability and innovation, from early firefighting apparatus such as the Brockway chemical truck to pioneering the use of advanced rescue equipment including the "Jaws of Life," and specialized vehicles for woodland firefighting; and

WHEREAS, The Yaphank Department has responded to countless emergencies, including devastating fires, aircraft accidents, major highway incidents, and widespread brush fires, often working in coordination with neighboring departments to protect life and property across Suffolk County; and

WHEREAS, During times of national hardship, including World War II, members of the department answered the call to serve their country, while the community came together to ensure continued local protection, even allowing younger residents to step forward in support roles; and

WHEREAS, The Yaphank Fire Department has long been supported by strong community engagement, including the establishment of its Ladies Auxiliary in 1951, whose members provided vital support to firefighters and continue to play an active role in Department events and traditions today; and

WHEREAS, The department has fostered a deep sense of community through events such as its annual Memorial Day parade, athletic competitions, fundraisers, and celebrations, reinforcing its identity as a cornerstone of "Small Town USA" and a gathering place for generations of local families; and

WHEREAS, The members of the Yaphank Fire Department have not only served as first responders but have also contributed as civic leaders, business owners, educators, and public servants, strengthening the fabric of the Town of Brookhaven; and

WHEREAS, Under the current leadership of Chairman Donald Schaaf and the Board of Fire Commissioners, District Manager Matthew Quinn, and Department Chief Donald E. Schaaf, along with their fellow officers and staff, the Yaphank Fire Department continues its proud tradition of excellence and service; and

WHEREAS, The 100th Anniversary of the Yaphank Fire Department is a significant milestone which offers an opportunity to reflect upon its rich history, honor its past and present members, and celebrate its enduring contributions to the community; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Yaphank Fire Department, recognizing its distinguished history and invaluable service to the people of the State of New York; and be it further

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