

BY: Senator STEWART-COUSINS

COMMEMORATING the 150th Anniversary of the Sleepy Hollow Fire Department

WHEREAS, The volunteer firefighters of New York State are renowned throughout the Nation; their reputation is synonymous with excellence in the arduous field of fire protection and prevention; and

WHEREAS, Fire departments are an integral part of community protection services in every locality of our State; during the past 150 years, the courageous and devoted firefighters of the Sleepy Hollow 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, The efforts of the courageous, resilient volunteer firefighters of the Sleepy Hollow Fire Department never cease, risking injury and life in the pursuit of public safety when responding to disasters; and

WHEREAS, Organized on May 26, 1876, the Sleepy Hollow Fire Department serves as the primary fire and rescue agency for the entire Village of Sleepy Hollow, encompassing a service area of 5.1 square miles and a service population of over 10,000 New Yorkers; the department's five companies provide life-saving services including fire suppression, vehicle extrication, surface water rescue, ice rescue, and rapid intervention, along with any other emergency response that is deemed appropriate; and

WHEREAS, The Sleepy Hollow Fire Department's stated mission is to protect life and property from the adverse effects of fire, and exposure to dangerous conditions created by nature or man, to respond to emergencies in a professional and courteous manner and strive to reduce the rate of emergencies through public education and code enforcement, and to ensure that ethical values remain at the core of every decision made by every member of the department; and

WHEREAS, The firefighters that make up the Sleepy Hollow Fire Department have been, and continue to be, an important asset for the Village of Sleepy Hollow and its residents; these brave men and women are always ready and willing to come to the aid of their neighbor in the performance of a duty that they have volunteered to do without thought of fee or reward; without their invaluable service provided at no cost to taxpayers, the Village would be less safe and face significantly higher insurance and tax rates; and

WHEREAS, In addition to the skill and devoted service demonstrated by individual firefighters, the Sleepy Hollow Fire Department reflects the storied history and impressive developments of firefighting over the past 150 years; 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 volunteer 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 commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the Sleepy Hollow Fire Department, celebrated on May 16, 2026; and be it further

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