

**BY:** M. of A. Conrad

**COMMEMORATING** the 150th Anniversary of the North  
Tonawanda Columbia Hook & Ladder Company No. 1

**WHEREAS,** This Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the North Tonawanda Columbia Hook & Ladder Company No. 1 and to honor its past and present firefighting members for 150 years of fire protection for the citizens of North Tonawanda, New York; and

**WHEREAS,** Citizens across our State and Nation are inspired by and indebted to our noble firefighters who exhibit courage and bravery every day in the course of their duties; firefighters exemplify the power of human compassion and the strength of the American spirit through actions of the most heroic magnitude; their sacrifices and selfless dedication merit tribute and recognition by all citizens of this great country; and

**WHEREAS,** Volunteer fire companies 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 North Tonawanda Columbia Hook & Ladder Company No. 1 have valiantly responded to all types of fire emergencies and have won the praise and respect of the community which they serve; and

**WHEREAS,** On May 7, 1876, twenty residents of the Village of North Tonawanda gathered outside a schoolhouse to form a company for the protection of property against fire; later that month, on May 15, 1876, the newly formed company was named the firemen of the Village by the Village Board; and

**WHEREAS,** The mission of the North Tonawanda Columbia Hook & Ladder Company No. 1 is to provide high quality emergency medical, fire suppression, and rescue services through the skill, commitment, and cooperative team effort of one unified department; and

**WHEREAS,** Upon its founding, the North Tonawanda Columbia Hook & Ladder Company No. 1 became the first fire company to operate north of the Erie Canal, and it is currently the oldest fire company and only dedicated ladder in the North Tonawanda Fire Department; and

**WHEREAS,** The North Tonawanda Columbia Hook & Ladder Company No. 1 was founded during our Nation's centennial year, hence the founders decided "Columbia" would be a fitting patriotic name for the company; and

**WHEREAS,** Today, the North Tonawanda Columbia Hook & Ladder Company No. 1 remains feet away from its original founding location on the brick road between Tremont and Goundry streets in North Tonawanda, New York; and

**WHEREAS,** With its impressive force of caring firefighters, the

record of the North Tonawanda Columbia Hook & Ladder Company No. 1 in public service and fire protection is one to be applauded; for 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, for 150 years, whenever the alarm sounded, these noble men and women selflessly and tirelessly risked their lives to save the lives of others and to protect homes and property from the destruction caused by fire and hazards to life, health, and well-being; and

**WHEREAS,** This Legislative Body cannot express sufficient gratitude to those individuals who recognize that the preservation of life and property is a sacred responsibility and who make that responsibility their own by serving as 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 publicly acknowledge the heroic good works performed by the fire departments of this great Empire State, their officers, and their auxiliaries; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to proudly commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the North Tonawanda Columbia Hook & Ladder Company No. 1; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the North Tonawanda Columbia Hook & Ladder Company No. 1.