

2013-J2756

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 75th Anniversary of the Ocean Beach Volunteer Fire Department on October 12, 2013

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is proud to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Ocean Beach Volunteer Fire Department and to honor its past and present firefighting members for 75 years of fire protection to the citizens of Ocean Beach and its surrounding communities; and

WHEREAS, The members of the Ocean Beach Volunteer Fire Department celebrated this milestone on Saturday, October 12, 2013, at its Annual Installation of Officers Dinner Dance held at Maguire's on the Bay, in Ocean Beach, New York; and

WHEREAS, The Ocean Beach Volunteer Fire Department was officially founded in 1938; since then, it has grown to 70 members at present including 25 Emergency Medical Technicians and six Advanced Care Providers; and

WHEREAS, The Ocean Beach Volunteer Fire Department Emergency Medical Service was started in 1994, and shortly after, its Emergency Medical Service coverage was expanded to include Point O'Woods and Ocean Bay Park; and

WHEREAS, In 1938, when the Ocean Beach Volunteer Fire Department was first formed, its district encompassed 10 blocks by two blocks; today, it is made up of almost two miles of beachfront, including the communities of Seaview, Corneille Estates, Fire Island Summer Club, Robbins Rest, Atlantique and the Islip Town Atlantique Marina, as well as some National Seashore property; and

WHEREAS, Ocean Beach Volunteer Fire Department's current firehouse was built in 1978 by the members of the Department on property donated to the Village by the members of the Fire Department; and

WHEREAS, To date, 2012-2013 was one of the most trying times in the

Ocean Beach Volunteer Fire Department's history; Super Storm Sandy destroyed the fire hall, which was functioning as the Emergency Operations Center, and three feet of water filled the firehouse; and

WHEREAS, Over 50 members of the Ocean Beach Volunteer Fire Department dropped everything and put their lives on hold to spend two weeks on Fire Island to help put the firehouse, the Village, and the protection districts back to the point at which residents could safely return and start working on their homes; and

WHEREAS, With a grant from New York State, the Ocean Beach Volunteer Fire Department built and manages a Fire Island-wide radio system which allows all emergency agencies operating on Fire Island to communicate with each other; for some time during and after Sandy, this was the only means of communication on Fire Island; and

WHEREAS, This past year, including the Super Storm Sandy operations, the members of the Ocean Beach Volunteer Fire Department responded to over 300 alarms; and

WHEREAS, Fire departments are an integral part of community protection services in every locality of our State; during the past 75 years, the courageous and devoted firefighters of the Ocean Beach Volunteer 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, With a membership of dedicated firefighters, the record of the Ocean Beach Volunteer Fire Department in public service and fire protection is one to be envied; for 24 hours a day, for 365 days a year, for 75 years, whenever the alarm sounded, these noble volunteers left their homes and went to the aid of their neighbors; and

WHEREAS, The brave firefighters of the Ocean Beach Volunteer Fire Department are prepared to risk their lives every day to help save the

lives of others and to protect homes and property from the destruction caused by fire; and

WHEREAS, In addition to the skill and devoted service demonstrated by

individual firefighters, the Ocean Beach Volunteer Fire Department reflects the history and development of firefighting over the past 75 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 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 proudly commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Ocean Beach Volunteer Fire Department; and be it further

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