

## 2013-K1011

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the Bridgewater Fire Company, Inc.

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is proud to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Bridgewater Fire Company, Inc., and to honor its past and present firefighting members for 100 years of fire protection to the citizens of Bridgewater, New York, and its surrounding communities; and

WHEREAS, Fire departments are an integral part of community protection services in every locality of our State; during the past 100 years, the courageous and devoted firefighters of the Bridgewater Fire Company, Inc. have valiantly responded to all types of fire emergencies and have won the praise and respect of the community which they serve; and

WHEREAS, In March of 1914, a citizens meeting was held at Hibbard House Hotel with Herbert Palmer as chairman, Howard Miller as clerk, and the first volunteer members of a fire company to be known as the Bridgewater Chemical Company; during this meeting the following officers were elected to serve the new company's leadership: Earl M. Rising, President; William H. Jones, Vice President; Louis Tillson, Fire Chief; Claude Wilkinson, Assistant Chief; George Tripp, Secretary; and H. Orville Rising, Treasurer; and

WHEREAS, In 1915, a fire station property was acquired from Louis Beltz, and was fully operational; however, the Bridgewater Chemical Company did not become officially incorporated until 1937; and

WHEREAS, In 1949, the Bridgewater Chemical Company formed the Fire Protection District, and changed its name to Bridgewater Fire Company, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, Over the years, the Bridgewater Fire Company, Inc. augmented its equipment and vehicles, remaining on the cutting edge of firefighting technology; in 1986, a new firehouse was built on land purchased

from Bill Williams; and

WHEREAS, The Advanced Life Support Ambulance was added to the Bridgewater Fire District in 1994, providing its community with an important set of life-saving protocols and skills, and enhancing the ability of the Bridgewater Fire Company, Inc. to save lives; one year later, the Ambulance was upgraded to a Paramedic Level; and

WHEREAS, In April of 2005, a new addition was built to the Bridgewater Firehouse with a new meeting room and fire truck bay; and

WHEREAS, Today, under the luminous direction of Fire Chief William DeKing Jr., with a membership of dedicated firefighters, the record of the Bridgewater Fire Company, Inc. in public service and fire protection is one to be envied; for 24 hours a day, for 365 days a year, for 100 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 Bridgewater Fire Company, Inc. 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 Bridgewater Fire Company, Inc. reflects the history and development of firefighting over the past 100 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 100th Anniversary of the Bridgewater Fire Company, Inc; and be it further.

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Bridgewater Fire Company, Inc.