

2013-J4825

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending the Gates Volunteer Ambulance Service upon the occasion of celebrating its 50th Anniversary on May 17, 2014

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize and pay tribute to organizations within the State of New York which provide vital emergency medical rescue services; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend the Gates Volunteer Ambulance Service upon the occasion of its 50th Anniversary, to be celebrated at the Hyatt Regency Rochester, Rochester, New York, on Saturday, May 17, 2014; and

WHEREAS, The Gates Volunteer Ambulance Service (GVAS) has proudly provided Emergency Medical Services to the Gates, New York, community for 50 years; from the days of simple first aid in the back of an ambulance to applying the modern sophistication of today's Advanced Life Support, it responds to calls for EMS assistance whenever needed; and

WHEREAS, GVAS held its first meeting on February 23, 1964; Gates Police Chief William Stauber, who originated the concept of a volunteer ambulance service for the town, was elected president, along with other company officers and a board of directors; and

WHEREAS, GVAS answered its first emergency call, an auto accident on Chili Avenue on November 2, 1964; its services were available during the evening and overnight hours on weekdays, with 24-hour coverage only available on weekends; and

WHEREAS, On March 22, 1965, this esteemed organization responded to its first maternity call; volunteers David Georger and Robert Ruemelin delivered a baby girl in the home of a mother on Laurel Avenue; and

WHEREAS, In the late 1960s, GVAS expanded opportunities for its female volunteers, going beyond serving as dispatch operators to such fields as

medics and drivers, which allowed the company to achieve 24-hours a day, seven-days a week service for the community; over the years, the service has been blessed by the contributions of numerous female members, including Ruthe Neu, the first woman to serve as chief; and

WHEREAS, In 1987, a milestone for GVAS was reached when volunteers Cecil Karley and David Quartley were the first members to reach 10,000 hours of service; they were honored with letters from President Ronald Reagan, Congressman John LaFalce and Gates Supervisor Jack Hart; and WHEREAS, In the same year, this distinguished ambulance service established its Advanced Life Support unit to further serve the needs of its community; and

WHEREAS, In 2013, GVAS responded to 5,673 calls, covering nearly 99 percent of all requests for service with an average response time of just over seven minutes; its roster now includes 115 volunteers and 59 career staff; and

WHEREAS, GVAS maintains a strong commitment to providing state of the art emergency medical services; of the 29 paramedics throughout Monroe County who hold the higher Rapid Sequence Induction (RSI) certification, seven are members of GVAS; and

WHEREAS, In January 2014, GVAS announced consolidation plans with the Spencerport Volunteer Ambulance Service; with a goal of benefitting both communities through improved service and response times, it will continue its mission for many years to come; and

WHEREAS, All of the courageous individuals associated with the Gates Volunteer Ambulance Service, past and present, merit the highest commendation for their contributions to the noble missions of this life-saving organization; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when organizations of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of the great State of New York; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend the Gates Volunteer Ambulance Service upon the occasion of its 50th Anniversary; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Gates Volunteer Ambulance Service.