

2013-K1437

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 70th Anniversary of the Ulster Hose Fire Department

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is proud to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of the Ulster Hose Fire Department and to honor its past and present firefighting members for 70 years of fire protection to the citizens of Ulster County 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 70 years, the courageous and devoted firefighters of the Ulster Hose 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, In the early part of 1940, two men, Albert Montavani and John Osterhoudt, felt there was a strong need for fire protection in the Town of Ulster, and with only their drive and determination to help them, they each set forth to make this dream a reality; and

WHEREAS, A meeting was held at the Lincoln Park Inn to discuss the future of the Ulster Hose Fire Department; the first group of 21 men who helped establish the Ulster Hose Fire Department include: Albert Montavani, John Osterhoudt, William Williams, Don Hopper, Ed Avery, Frank Avery, Chuck Hummer, Bud Rappleyea, Joe Mcnierney, Charles Thiel, Bill Harbig, Bill Piepers, Al Kiersted Sr., James Krom, Charles Rose, Dick Lamb, Ralph Hayner Sr., Jack Kolts, Halsy Bulivant, Charles Mueller and Harold Macholdt; and

WHEREAS, The first vehicle that was used by these men was John Osterhoudt's own Packard which he donated to the cause; in addition, a button had been installed on a pole in front of John Osterhoudt's home, which when pushed would activate a siren; upon hearing the siren, the firefighters would rush out to the street and wait to be picked up by

him on his way to the call; and

WHEREAS, At the end of 1941, the United States had entered World War II, making the need for the Ulster Hose Fire Department an even greater one; at this time, the Ulster Hose Fire Department entered into the Civilian Defense Program which was led by James Krom; and

WHEREAS, Finally, after four years of hard work on March 9, 1944, the first recorded meeting of the Ulster Hose Fire Department conducted elections and six men were named as Fire Commissioners including: Charles Thiel, Chairman; William Pratt, Treasurer; A.H. Chambers; Charles Bevorant; Ben Ashton; and Fred Gildersleeve; and

WHEREAS, In January of 1945, a 1936 Chevrolet Truck was purchased from Phelan & Cahill which would be the Ulster Hose Fire Department's first official fire engine; this same year, the first meeting of the Ladies Auxiliary was held; and

WHEREAS, On December 5, 1945, official maps of the new fire district along with the legal papers showing the formation of the Ulster Hose Fire Department were sent to the underwriters and were accepted; and

WHEREAS, The men of the Ulster Hose Fire Department continued to provide fire and medical service to the residents with one fire engine out of John Osterhoudt's home until November 1946, when a committee was formed to begin the plans to build a new fire house; and

WHEREAS, The first meeting in the new Ulster Hose Fire Department's building was held on February 3, 1948, and an Open House was held to show the community the new fire house; and

WHEREAS, In September 1952, an addition was added to the Ulster Hose Fire Department building to handle the department's growing needs; and

WHEREAS, Over the past several years, the department had purchased newer and larger equipment to meet the needs of the growing community;

changes continued to take place to the building with a construction project finishing in 1969; and

WHEREAS, By 1972, all the fire phones in the district had been

replaced with County Wide dispatching, and the number of calls responded to in 1979 was 363; ten years later, the Ulster Hose Fire Department had a certified dive team; and

WHEREAS, In November of 1986, a vote passed to build a new fire station, and in April of 1987, the old station was sold to the Kerhonkson Tire Company; and

WHEREAS, At the end of 1992, the Ulster Hose Fire Department had responded to 805 calls; one year later, the department ended the year with a record 973 calls; and

WHEREAS, The Ulster Hose Fire Department has evolved from a one vehicle department to its current fleet of more than 14 vehicles; the membership is currently over 90 men and women, and the calls for service have been between 1200 and 1500 each year; and

WHEREAS, With a membership of dedicated firefighters, the record of the Ulster Hose Fire Department in public service and fire protection is one to be envied; for 24 hours a day, for 365 days a year, for 70 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 Ulster Hose 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 Ulster Hose Fire Department reflects the history and development of firefighting over the past 70 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 70th Anniversary of the Ulster Hose Fire Depart-
ment; and be it further

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RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be tran-
smitted to the Ulster Hose Fire Department.