

2013-J6057

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Firefighter John F. Waldron upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition after 65 years of dedicated service to the Port Henry Fire Department

WHEREAS, The firefighters of New York State are renowned throughout the Nation; their reputation is synonymous with excellence in the arduous field of fire protection and prevention; and

WHEREAS, Since the early days of "teapot steamers," the volunteer firefighter has been the cornerstone of our great Nation's efforts to spare us from the ravages of fire; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is proud to commend Firefighter John F. Waldron upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition after 65 years of dedicated service to the Port Henry Fire Department to be celebrated at its Annual Firemen's Banquet on Saturday, June 21, 2014, at King's Inn, Port Henry, New York; and

WHEREAS, John F. Waldron, affectionately known as Jack, joined and was accepted into the L.F. Sprague Hose Company in September of 1948; he served in the capacity of Junior Fireman until his graduation from Port Henry High School in 1951; and

WHEREAS, In May of 1951, John F. Waldron became an active and official member of the L.F. Sprague Hose Company; and

WHEREAS, For four years, August 1951 through August 1955, John F. Waldron entered the Armed Services and served his country as a member of the United States Navy; and

WHEREAS, Upon his return, John F. Waldron continued on with his spirit and service to his community, and in April of 1965, both the L.F. Sprague and G.R. Sherman Hose Companies decided to combine forces to become known as the Port Henry Fire Department; and

WHEREAS, Over the course of 65 years of remarkable service to the Port

Henry Fire Department, John F. Waldron has served as 1st Assistant Chief for 19 years; as a result of his efforts, dedication, and knowledge, he was elected Fire Chief in 1991, and held that position until April 2004; and

WHEREAS, Today, John F. Waldron remains active in the Port Henry Fire Department, fulfilling the role of department Safety Officer; and

WHEREAS, Aside from his illustrious career in the volunteer fire service, during the mid-fifties to late sixties, John F. Waldron was gainfully employed by Carrier Motors, Port Henry Oil Corporation, and the International Paper Company; and

WHEREAS, On January 29, 1969, John F. Waldron was fortunate to combine his love of the fire service by converting it into a professional career; on this date, he joined the Department of Defense, Plattsburgh Air Force Base as a Firefighter; and

WHEREAS, One year later, John F. Waldron was quickly promoted to Station Chief, and in 1972, he was again promoted to Assistant Chief of Operations, Crash and Structural, serving in this role for a period of five years; in 1977, he was appointed Assistant Chief of Technical Services, Fire Prevention and Investigation; and

WHEREAS, During this tenure, John F. Waldron also acted as Fire Chief during any absences of the Base Chief; in March of 1989, he retired from the Plattsburgh Air Force Base with over 20 proud years of service; and

WHEREAS, In addition to pursuing his fire service career, John F. Waldron actively participated in many volunteer organizations, including charter member of the Town of Moriah Ambulance Squad, active supporter of the Moriah Central School Booster Club for Athletes, member of the Port Henry Council No. 384 Knights of Columbus, member of the Veterans

of Foreign Wars Mineville Post No. 5802, and member of the American Legion Post No. 14 of Vergennes, Vermont; and

WHEREAS, This exceptional man's name is synonymous with his fire service, and he will always be respected for his time, effort, and

service he has provided to the Port Henry community; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout have been his wife Peg, and their four children, Tammy, Toni, John, and Jimmy, as well as 11 grandchildren, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of his life and rejoice in his achievements; and

WHEREAS, Volunteer firefighters and fire departments not only provide the critical service of fire protection but also engage in other activities of great benefit and importance to the communities they serve; and

WHEREAS, It takes a special dedication, a strong desire to help others and a tireless sense of community to forsake precious time with family and friends to respond to the signal that a neighbor is in need; John F. Waldron is such a firefighter; throughout 65 years of devoted service, this volunteer heroically performed, above and beyond the call of duty, those responsibilities which define the task of fire protection; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Firefighter John F. Waldron upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition after 65 years of dedicated service to the Port Henry Fire Department; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Firefighter John F. Waldron.