

## 2013-J6091

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Firefighter Gene VanDeWalle upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition after 50 years of dedicated service to the Walworth 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 Gene VanDeWalle upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition after 50 years of dedicated service to the Walworth Fire Department; this impressive milestone will be celebrated on Sunday, July 27, 2014, at the Walworth Fire Department Fire House; and

WHEREAS, Firefighter Gene VanDeWalle has not only been a committed member of the Walworth Fire Department, he has also taken on the mantle of leadership within the Department, serving as Chief for ten years, Commissioner, President, and Trustee; in addition, he was President of the Wayne County Fire Chiefs Association, President of the Wayne County Volunteer Firemen's Association, and a member of the Wayne County Fire Police Association; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout have been his wife, Shirley VanDeWalle, and their three daughters, Kathy, Karen, and Laurie, 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; Gene VanDeWalle is such a firefighter; throughout 50 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 Gene VanDeWalle for 50 years of distinguished service; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Firefighter Gene VanDeWalle.