

## 2015-J53

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the Wynantskill Fire Department

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is proud to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Wynantskill Fire Department, and to honor its past and present firefighting members for 100 years of fire protection to the citizens of Wynantskill, 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 Wynantskill 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, Officially incorporated in March of 1915, the Wynantskill Fire Department had its first real test in April of that same year when an alarm called the company to a brush fire at Evergreen Cemetery; and

WHEREAS, During its humble beginning, the Wynantskill Fire Department consisted of approximately 40 members and one piece of equipment, a horse drawn Howe hand pumper; the first home for the Fire Department was the Odd Fellows Hall located at the corner of Main Avenue and Church; and

WHEREAS, In 1927, the Wynantskill Fire Department purchased their first modern piece of equipment, a grey truck; today, this machine known as the "Grey Ghost" appears at the Annual Memorial Day Parade; and

WHEREAS, The Wynantskill Fire Department had outgrown its space by 1938, and subsequently purchased and razed the Odd Fellows Hall, where they constructed the brick building which is now occupied by the Town's Emergency Service vehicles; and

WHEREAS, This new fire house served the community until 1980, when the current home to the Wynantskill Fire Department was built just up the

hill on Church Street; and

WHEREAS, Over the last century, the Wynantskill Fire Department has fought several major fires including the McLoughlin Tavern fire of August 1942, the Wynantskill School blaze in 1949, and the destruction of the original American Legion Hall in 1958; and

WHEREAS, With a membership of dedicated firefighters, the record of the Wynantskill Fire Department 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 Wynantskill 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 Wynantskill Fire Department 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 Wynantskill Fire Department; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Wynantskill Fire Department.