

## 2015-J2739

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Assistant Chief Steve Grundt and Firefighter Jeffrey North upon the occasion of their designation as recipients of the Firefighters of the Year Award by the Ulster County Volunteer Firemen's Association

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 honor Assistant Chief Steve Grundt and Firefighter Jeffrey North of the Ellenville Fire District upon the occasion of their designation as recipients of the Firefighters of the Year Award by the Ulster County Volunteer Firemen's Association to be celebrated at its Convention on Friday, July 24, 2015, at the Kerhonkson fire station in Kerhonkson, New York; and

WHEREAS, On May 17, 2014, at 3:53 a.m., the Ellenville Fire District was dispatched for a reported structure fire; Car 26, 26-1, and 26-2 responded within minutes, and the Ulster 911 advised that police were on the scene reporting heavy smoke; and

WHEREAS, At the same time a second alarm was transmitted, and E26-10 was the first engine at the scene; and

WHEREAS, An attack line was formed and manned by Firefighter Francis Roller, Firefighter Jeffrey North, and Assistant Chief Steve Grundt; the team entered the building through the front door and searched for the fire down the hall; after minutes of searching, the smoke intensified, and visibility was extremely limited; and

WHEREAS, Firefighter Francis Roller went ahead and was the first to

enter the kitchen; unfortunately, he fell through the burned floor into a crawl space where the fire was burning intensely; and WHEREAS, Hearing his scream for help, Firefighter Jeffrey North and Assistant Chief Steve Grundt successfully found him and pulled him out to safety, where he was examined by Ellenville Rescue; thankfully, he had no injuries; and

WHEREAS, Through their heroic actions, Firefighter Jeffrey North and Assistant Chief Steve Grundt demonstrated their character and their compassion for the welfare of others, personifying, by virtue of their actions, the collective concern of firefighters across the community of New York State who voluntarily respond without the thought of danger or reward when others are in need of help; 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; Firefighter Jeffrey North and Assistant Chief Steve Grundt are two such firefighters; throughout their many years of devoted service, these two volunteers 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 honor Firefighter Jeffrey North and Assistant Chief Steve Grundt upon the occasion of their designation as recipients of the Firefighters of the Year Award by the Ulster County Volunteer Firemen's Association; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Firefighter Jeffrey North and Assistant Chief Steve Grundt.