

## 2015-J4179

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Firefighter John Maes upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition after 40 years of dedicated service to North Lindenhurst 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 honor Firefighter John Maes upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition after 40 years of dedicated service to North Lindenhurst Fire Department, to be celebrated at its 59th Annual Installation Dinner on Saturday, April 2, 2016, at the Hyatt Regency, Hauppauge, New York; 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, A lifelong resident of Lindenhurst, John Maes joined the North Lindenhurst Fire Department on September 4, 1976; he was an active firefighter in Hook, Ladder and Engine Company No. 3 when his service with the department was interrupted due to his commitment to the United States Marines; and

WHEREAS, Upon the completion of his military service, John Maes returned to active duty with North Lindenhurst Fire Department; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his illustrious firefighting career, John Maes climbed the ranks and served in several capacities on the Executive Board including 2nd Vice President, 1st Vice President and President; he was also a member of the New York State Drill Team Champion Piston

Knockers; and

WHEREAS, John Maes' spirit of service to his fellow citizens was truly demonstrated during the World Trade Center tragedy; he courageously joined a group of volunteers and responded to ground zero where he assisted residents in retrieving their personal belongings and pets; and

WHEREAS, Citizens across our State and Nation are inspired by and indebted to our valiant firefighters who exhibit courage and bravery every day in the course of their duties; and

WHEREAS, Firefighters exemplify the power of human compassion and the strength of the American spirit through actions of the most heroic magnitude; their sacrifices and their selfless dedication merit tribute and recognition by all citizens of this great country; and

WHEREAS, Many firefighters have lost their lives to save the lives of others; each and every day, they face danger and peril without fear and perform their job with the utmost concern and professionalism; 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 Maes is such a firefighter; throughout 40 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 honor Firefighter John Maes upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition after 40 years of dedicated service to North Lindenhurst Fire Department; and be it further

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