

## 2015-J4682

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending the New York State Association of Fire Chaplains, Inc. upon the occasion of celebrating their 50th Anniversary on April 18, 2016

WHEREAS, The spiritual guidance and nurturing of the emergency responders of the State of New York is of great importance to the vitality and well-being of our communities; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to bring full recognition and just tribute to those men and women of religious commitment who accept the responsibility of moral leadership and render the wisdom of human understanding; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend the New York State Association of Fire Chaplains, Inc. upon the occasion of celebrating their 50th Anniversary at its Annual Meeting and Dinner on Monday, April 18, 2016, at the Coldenham Fire Department, Newburgh, New York; and

WHEREAS, At this auspicious occasion, Reverend James Van Houten will be installed as Chief Chaplain; and

WHEREAS, For 50 years, the dedicated members of New York State Association of Fire Chaplains (NYS AFC), Inc. have strived to serve people in times of crisis and in the day to day operations of emergency service organizations; and

WHEREAS, (NYS AFC), Inc. is faith-based organization which is comprised of a group of men and women from all areas of emergency services such as line officers, EMS providers, clergy, commissioners, laity, past chiefs, county coordinators, fire police, and administrators; and

WHEREAS, This diverse group of emergency authorities offered their opinions and advice and authored the first fire chaplain's manual which

is used at annual and regional training opportunities specifically designed for Fire Chaplains; and

WHEREAS, Fire Chaplains are available to offer assistance to anyone in need, but more specifically in conjunction with the Fireman's Association of New York (FASNY) and the New York State Association of Fire Chiefs; these Liaisons also work side by side with New York State's LAST Team members from the National Fallen Firefighter's Foundation (NFFF) and with the Board of Directors of the New York State Association of Fire Chaplains, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, Fire Chaplains are often invited to give a few words at banquets and installation ceremonies, memorial services and funerals, and to bless apparatus, as well as offer prayers at meetings; active Chaplains often visit hospitals and offer valuable support to both Chiefs and officers; some Fire Chaplains are board certified counselors, and are trained in CATSM or CISM; 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 comrade is in need; and

WHEREAS, These distinguished men and women of God have always given enlightenment, guidance and wisdom to the many entrusted to their care and have administered abundantly and unstintingly to the spiritual and corporal needs of all; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend the New York State Association of Fire Chaplains, Inc. upon the occasion of celebrating their 50th Anniversary on April 18, 2016; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Robert H. Ruston, Director, New York State Association of Fire Chaplains, Inc.