

## 2015-J5175

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Ex-Captain Kevin Burgess upon the occasion of being named the 2015 Firefighter of the Year by the Riverhead Fire Department on May 13, 2016

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 Ex-Captain Kevin Burgess upon the occasion of being named the 2015 Firefighter of the Year by the Riverhead Fire Department, to be celebrated at its Annual Dinner on May 13, 2016, at East Wind Caterers, Wading River, New York; and

WHEREAS, This valiant firefighter is being recognized for his heroic efforts on January 29, 2015, saving the life of an unconscious occupant within the residence of a Middle Road structure fire; and

WHEREAS, Without hesitation or concern for his own safety, Kevin Burgess instinctually entered the building and began searching for the victim; after a fellow firefighter found the man, Kevin rushed over to help drag the man through two narrow doorways and out of the burning house, saving his life; and

WHEREAS, Kevin Burgess should be meritoriously commended for remaining calm under pressure and for showing valor and true courage while performing a lifesaving deed; and

WHEREAS, Through his spontaneous and heroic actions, Kevin Burgess demonstrated his character and his compassion for the welfare of others, personifying, by virtue of his actions, the collective concern of ordi-

nary citizens 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; Kevin Burgess is such a firefighter; throughout his devoted service, this volunteer heroically performed, above and beyond the call of duty, those responsibilities which define the task of fire protection; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that those who enhance the well-being and vitality of their community and have shown a long and sustained commitment to excellence certainly have earned the recognition and applause of all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Ex-Captain Kevin Burgess upon the occasion of being named the 2015 Firefighter of the Year by the Riverhead Fire Department on May 13, 2016; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Ex-Captain Kevin Burgess.