

2015-K1536

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Herbert A. Burkhard upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition after more than 55 years of dedicated service to the City of Poughkeepsie, New York

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 Herbert A. Burkhard upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition after more than 55 years of dedicated service to the City of Poughkeepsie, New York; and

WHEREAS, Born in New York City on February 1, 1929, Herbert A. Burkhard enjoyed spending time with his father at the Hopewell Hose Company in East Fishkill, New York; and

WHEREAS, As soon as he was eligible, Herbert A. Burkhard joined the O.H. Booth Hose Company in Poughkeepsie in May of 1948; a few months later, he enlisted in the United States Navy Construction Battalion; he proudly served his country for four years as a member of the Fire Department in Guam, and in the Maintenance Division on the Island of Kwajalein in the South Pacific; and

WHEREAS, After his discharge in August of 1952, Herbert A. Burkhard returned to Poughkeepsie and continued his volunteer service with the O.H. Booth Hose Company for the next 10 years; and

WHEREAS, On February 8, 1958, Herbert A. Burkhard became employed in his dream job as a City of Poughkeepsie Firefighter, an occupation he held for 25 years; through the years, he rose through the ranks, holding

the title of Captain, a position from which he officially retired in February of 1983; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his tenure, Herbert A. Burkhard was a vital member of the Fire Advisory Board of Directors, and the Poughkeepsie Code Committee; in addition, he served as Assistant Cub Master for the Boy Scouts; and

WHEREAS, After he and his wife moved to Granville, New York, Herbert A. Burkhard held the role of Dutchess County Deputy Fire Coordinator from February of 1983 through July of 1984; and

WHEREAS, In January of 1985, Herbert A. Burkhard joined the Penrhyn Engine & Hose Company where he held numerous leadership positions including Secretary and Treasurer; for over three decades, he has served as Director of the Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, Today, at the age of 87, Herbert A. Burkhard remains a dedicated Firefighter of the Penrhyn Engine & Hose Company, where he is always ready to lend a hand and help with various activities; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout have been his loving wife, Bernina, and their five devoted children, Jay, Jennifer, Jill, Joel and Jane, all of whom privileged to be a part of his life and rejoice in his accomplishments; 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; Herbert A. Burkhard is such a firefighter; throughout more than 55 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

commend Herbert A. Burkhard for more than 55 years of distinguished service; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Herbert A. Burkhard.