

2017-J2151

Senate Resolution No. 2151

BY: Senator BONACIC

HONORING the Bloomington Fire Company Inc. upon the occasion of its designation as recipient of the Unit Citation Award by the Ulster County Volunteer Firemen's Association on July 29, 2017

WHEREAS, Within every community of the State of New York there are certain individuals who, by virtue of their commitment and dedication, command the respect and admiration of their community for their exemplary contributions and service on behalf of others; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor the Bloomington Fire Company Inc. upon the occasion of its designation as recipient of the Unit Citation Award by the Ulster County Volunteer Firemen's Association to be celebrated at its annual Convention on Saturday, July 29, 2017, at the Milton Train Station in Milton, New York; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to join with the borough of Bloomington, in recognizing the heroic and courageous acts by members of its Fire Department in extricating a driver from his tractor trailer which collided with a bridge overpass abutment on the New York State Thruway on July 29, 2016; and

WHEREAS, The highly skilled and courageous Firefighters meriting

this prestigious honor include: Chief Fred Harries, Assistant Chief Kevin Hines, Captain Ernest Navarra, Captain John Lane, Lieutenant Douglas Tierney, Lieutenant Brian Phillips, Lieutenant Alan Brown, Lieutenant Rebecca Stokes, Lieutenant Joseph Huettinger, and Firefighters Raymond Stegner, Brian Brainard, Kevin Keller, Lorren Potter, Joseph Hafner, Sr., Katelyn Stokes, Albert Schmidt, Christopher Walker, Katie Phillips, John Quick, and Robert Dolan, as well as Roger Peck; and

WHEREAS, Disregarding their own personal safety and acting in a manner which personifies the finest traditions of those who place their lives in order to serve others, these firefighters bravely and without hesitation, risked their own lives to rescue a man from his tractor trailer; their combined actions, coupled with their courage and selflessness, valiantly saved the precious life of this driver; and

WHEREAS, On July 29, 2016, the Bloomington Fire Department was dispatched to a multi-car vehicle accident at mile post 85.3 on the New York State Thruway involving a tractor trailer; firefighters arrived to find a tractor trailer crashed into the bridge overpass abutment, with the driver still trapped in the cab of his truck; and

WHEREAS, While deploying protective lines due to leaking diesel fuel and motor oil, the firefighters on the scene started lifesaving measures as they began efforts to extricate the trapped and injured driver; after 45 minutes of hard work under extreme conditions, the driver was freed from the cab, and Mobile Life Support Service and LifeNet Paramedics transported him to Westchester Medical Center; and

WHEREAS, The unwavering firefighters of the Bloomington Fire Department worked to the point of exhaustion on a hot and humid evening in July; they used ladders to reach the trapped victim, and every single

piece of extrication equipment was used during their extraordinary effort; and

WHEREAS, The New York State Thruway was closed in both directions, as well as the roadway above the incident due to possible structural damage to the Route 32 overpass; 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, heroically performing, above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, Through their unwavering commitment to serve and protect the community and citizens of Bloomington, New York, and their unqualified response to carrying out their duties irrespective of the peril and the personal dangers, these Firefighters have uniquely distinguished themselves and contributed significantly to that spirit of united purpose and shared concern which is the cornerstone of public service and community life; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor the Bloomington Fire Company Inc. upon the occasion of its designation as recipient of the Unit Citation Award by the Ulster County Volunteer Firemen's Association on July 29, 2017; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the aforementioned Firefighters and to the Bloomington Fire Company Inc.