

2009-K668

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Firefighter John F. Waldron upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition after 60 years of dedicated service to the Port Henry 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 commend Firefighter John F. Waldron upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition after 60 years of dedicated service to the Port Henry Fire Department; and

WHEREAS, Due to a lack of manpower during World War II, the two fire companies in Port Henry, New York, solicited high school students to assist them in providing fire protection to the village and the surrounding communities; and

WHEREAS, Answering the need of his community, John F. Waldron followed in the footsteps of his father and joined the L.F. Sprague Hose Company on September 9, 1948; and

WHEREAS, John F. Waldron served in the capacity of Junior Fireman until his graduation from Port Henry High School in 1951, when he became an active and official member of the L.F. Sprague Hose Company; and

WHEREAS, From 1951 until 1955, John F. Waldron served his country proudly as a member of the United States Navy; upon his return to Port Henry, he continued his dedicated service with the L.F. Sprague Hose Company; and

WHEREAS, In 1965, the L.F. Sprague Hose Company and the G.R. Sherman Hose Company combined forces and became known as the Port Henry Fire Department in order to serve the community better; and

WHEREAS, During his 60 years with the Port Henry Fire Department, John F. Waldron served in many leadership positions, including First Assistant Chief for 19 years and Fire Chief from 1991 to 2003; and

WHEREAS, After being employed by Currier Motors, the Port Henry Oil Corporation and the International Paper Company from the mid-1950s to late 1960s, John F. Waldron was able to combine his love of the fire service with a professional career when he joined the Department of Defense Plattsburgh Air Force Base as a Firefighter in 1969; and

WHEREAS, John F. Waldron was quickly promoted to Station Chief at the Plattsburgh Air Force Base and was promoted to Assistant Chief of Operations - Crash & Structural in 1972; he was appointed Assistant Chief of Technical Services - Fire Prevention & Investigation in 1977, where he served until his retirement in 1989; and

WHEREAS, A true citizen of the North Country, John F. Waldron believes in giving back to the region he loves so much; he was a charter member of the Town of Moriah Ambulance Squad and an active supporter of the Moriah Central Booster Club for Athletes, as well as a member of Port Henry Council 384 Knights of Columbus, Veterans of Foreign Wars Mineville Post 5802 and American Legion Post 14 of Vergennes, Vermont; and

WHEREAS, With John F. Waldron throughout have been his wife, Peg, and their four children, Tammy, Toni, John, Jr. and Jimmy, and 10 grandchildren, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of his life and rejoice in his many achievements; 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; John F. Waldron is such a firefighter; and

WHEREAS, Throughout 60 years of devoted service, John F. Waldron 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 Firefighter John F. Waldron for 60 years of distinguished service; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to John F. Waldron.