

2009-J1359

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Assistant Chief Richard Resto upon the occasion of being named Firefighter of the Year by the Southern New York Volunteer Firemen's Association

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body has the deepest pride and admiration for the firefighters of New York State who perform the crucial work of fire protection and fire prevention; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, it is the sense of this Legislative Body to honor Assistant Chief Richard Resto upon the occasion of being named Firefighter of the Year by the Southern New York Volunteer Firemen's Association; and

WHEREAS, On April 27, 2008, the South Farmingdale Fire Department along with elements of the Bethpage Fire Department and the North Massapequa Fire Department responded to a house fire at 15 Lyons Avenue in Farmingdale, New York; and

WHEREAS, The fire crews began fire suppression operations inside the building and encountered high heat and heavy smoke; the conditions rapidly deteriorated and the firefighters were ordered to return from the dwelling; and

WHEREAS, As the members of South Farmingdale Fire Department Ladder 978 and Engine 971 and Bethpage Fire Department Assistant Chief Richard Resto exited the dwelling, Lenny Mormino and Kenneth Keating of Engine 971 continued to operate a hand line in order to protect the departing firefighters; and

WHEREAS, Within seconds the first floor of the building collapsed; Firefighter Kenneth Keating was able to exit the building safely while Firefighter Lenny Mormino lost his footing and began to fall into the collapsed area; and

WHEREAS, Acting quickly, South Farmingdale Fire Department Lieutenant Joseph Barrow grabbed Firefighter Lenny Mormino by his SCBA unit to prevent him from falling through the floor and Assistant Chief Richard Resto helped remove the two of them from the building; and

WHEREAS, If not for the spontaneous and heroic actions of Assistant Chief Richard Resto and Lieutenant Joseph Barrow, Firefighter Lenny Mormino would have fallen through the floor and perished as a result of the fire; and

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, Citizens across our State and Nation are inspired by and indebted to our valiant firefighters who exhibit courage and bravery every day in the course of their duties; and

WHEREAS, Firefighters exemplify the power of human compassion and the strength of the American spirit through actions of the most heroic magnitude; their sacrifices and their selfless dedication merit tribute and recognition by all citizens of this great country; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body cannot express sufficient gratitude to those devoted individuals who recognize that the preservation of life and property is a sacred responsibility and who make that responsibility their own by serving as firefighters; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Assistant Chief Richard Resto upon the occasion of being named Firefighter of the Year by the Southern New York Volunteer Firemen's Association; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Assistant Chief Richard Resto.