

## 2011-J514

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Firefighter Donald Oakley posthumously upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition for 34 years of dedicated service to the Grand Gorge 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 Donald Oakley posthumously upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition for 34 years of dedicated service to the Grand Gorge Fire Department; and

WHEREAS, In memory of this outstanding firefighter, the Grand Gorge Fire Department will dedicate its new pavilion in honor of Donald Oakley and his many magnanimous contributions to the department; and

WHEREAS, Beginning his firefighter career as a junior member, Donald Oakley worked his way up the ranks over his 34 years with the department; he eventually served as Assistant Chief and in 2006, was recognized as Fireman of the Year; and

WHEREAS, Donald Oakley was a committed firefighter and devoted community member who gave of his time and energies to protect the community from the dangers of fire; and

WHEREAS, In addition to his role as Assistant Chief with the Grand Gorge Fire Department, Donald Oakley was employed with Oakley Farm in Grand Gorge, New York; and

WHEREAS, A member of the National Rifle Association, the North American Hunters Association, and Ducks Unlimited, Donald Oakley was an avid outdoorsman who loved hunting, barbecuing, logging, and excavating; and

WHEREAS, Donald Oakley was also known to cater local parties with his famous pig roasts and chicken barbecues; his help and expertise have made the Grand Gorge Fire Department chicken barbecues one of the highlights of the summer season in the community; and

WHEREAS, Predeceased by one brother, James R. Oakley, Donald Oakley is survived by his loving wife Kathy Oakley; his parents, Clifton and Grace Oakley; two sisters, Jane Madore and Kathy Alle; one brother, Charles Oakley; his two sons, Robert and Jeffrey Oakley; one daughter-in-law, Nicole; and his grandson, Skyler; 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; Donald Oakley was one such firefighter; throughout his 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 Firefighter Donald Oakley posthumously upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition for 34 years of dedicated service to the Grand Gorge Fire Department; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Donald Oakley.