

2011-J3581

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 125th Anniversary of the Caledonia Fire Department

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is proud to commemorate the 125th Anniversary of the Caledonia Fire Department and to honor its past and present firefighting members for more than a century of fire protection to the citizens of Caledonia, New York, and its surrounding communities; and

WHEREAS, On May 2, 1887, a meeting was called to order by W.V. Hamilton for the purpose of organizing a Fire Company; at this time the Big Springs Hook & Ladder Company was formed and on May 16, 1887, a constitution was ratified; and

WHEREAS, The following month, an annual meeting was held to elect officers; W.V. Hamilton was elected foreman, and in August, a truck was purchased from Rumsey Company; and

WHEREAS, Over the past 125 years, there have been many changes in the Caledonia Fire Department; and

WHEREAS, In 1937, the Fire Department held its 1st annual carnival on the old school grounds behind the present Fire Hall; this same year, a Fire Council was formed by the Department and the custom of the 1st Assistant Chief coming from the Company opposite the Department Chief was also set during the year; and

WHEREAS, The Caledonia Fire Department organized a First Aid Squad in 1939; 15 years later, the Fire Police were organized; and

WHEREAS, The Ladies Auxiliary was formed for the Department in 1955; and

WHEREAS, In 1978, the Hook & Ladder Ambulance and the Big Springs Pumper Emergency Car were merged to form the Caledonia Fire Department Emergency and Rescue Services; and

WHEREAS, The following year, the Caledonia Fire Department was able to open J.W. Jones Hall which is a recreation hall and training center for the department; this was made possible by a very generous donation from J.W. Jones; and

WHEREAS, Today, the 116 members of the Caledonia Fire Department are

proudly celebrating 125 years of continuous service in one of the most respected fire departments in New York State; and
WHEREAS, Fire departments are an integral part of community protection services in every locality of our State; during the past 125 years, the courageous and devoted firefighters of the Caledonia Fire Department have valiantly responded to all types of fire emergencies and have won the praise and respect of the community which they serve; and
WHEREAS, With a membership of dedicated firefighters, the record of the Caledonia Fire Department in public service and fire protection is one to be envied; for 24 hours a day, for 365 days a year, for 125 years, whenever the alarm sounded, these noble volunteers left their homes and went to the aid of their neighbors; and
WHEREAS, The brave firefighters of the Caledonia Fire Department are prepared to risk their lives every day to help save the lives of others and to protect homes and property from the destruction caused by fire; and
WHEREAS, In addition to the skill and devoted service demonstrated by individual firefighters, the Caledonia Fire Department reflects the history and development of firefighting over the past 125 years; 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; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that we should give special recognition to those who work so assiduously for the betterment of their communities, and acknowledge publicly the heroic good works performed by the volunteer fire departments of this great Empire State, their officers and auxiliaries; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to proudly commemorate the 125th Anniversary of the Caledonia Fire Department; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Caledonia Fire Department.