

2013-J5793

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the Otterkill Engine Company No. 1, Campbell Hall Fire Department to be celebrated on November 1, 2014

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is proud to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Otterkill Engine Company No. 1, Campbell Hall Fire Department and to honor its past and present firefighting members for 100 years of fire protection to the citizens of the Town of Hamptonburgh and its surrounding communities; and

WHEREAS, Fire departments are an integral part of community protection services in every locality of our State; during the past 100 years, the courageous and devoted firefighters of the Otterkill Engine Company No. 1 have valiantly responded to all types of fire emergencies and have won the praise and respect of the community which they serve; and

WHEREAS, The Otterkill Engine Company was organized November 4, 1914; according to the original minutes, approximately 60 men, residents of the village of Campbell Hall, gathered in the Town Hall at Campbell Hall for the purpose of organizing a fire company; and

WHEREAS, John L. Stillman was chosen chairman of the meeting and Elmer F. Markey served as Clerk; no record of whom these men were, but the election of a few of them as officers establishes their identity; these members were: Edward B. Kuhl-President, Carl P. Cross-Vice President; Elmer F. Markey-Secretary; Albert R. Gurnee-Treasurer; Cornelius Martinson-Chief; Elliott Mc Clung-Foreman; John A. Bedell-First Assistant Foreman; Lester Tremper-Second Assistant Foreman; George B. Alexander-Trustee; George W. Crist-Trustee; William Gurnee-Trustee; Charles O. Camp-Fire Police; and Cornelius Weaver-Fire Police; and

WHEREAS, Albert R. Gurnee, affectionately known as "Pop", who was instrumental in organizing the company and through whose untiring

efforts were greatly appreciated as well as his monetary gift along with other townsfolk's donations which helped to purchase the department's original fire apparatus; and

WHEREAS, A motor driven apparatus was delivered in 1916 by the American-LaFrance Company; this equipment consisted of two chemical tanks mounted upon a Ford Model-T chassis and is still in the possession of the company; and

WHEREAS, In 1931, the Fire District purchased what is known as a "Triple-Combination", comprising a motor driven pump of high capacity and a hose body and ladder rack; this was a Sanford pumper; at that time, the Ford chemical truck was retired and while it has since become obsolete it is occasionally driven in parades; and

WHEREAS, In 1954, the Sanford pumper was traded in for a Ford-LaFrance which is still used today; six years later, the District purchased a Ford H. & H. tank truck with a capacity of 1500 gallons; and

WHEREAS, The Ford apparatus and the original firehouse together with all of the other equipment of the company were acquired by the newly established fires district in 1918, and Charles H. Cornell, Sanford P.

Watkins and Harold Benedict were elected Fire Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, It was through the efforts of Harold Benedict who was treasurer of the company from 1916-1920, that the Fire District of the Town of Hamptonburgh was established and the department organized under Supervisor Henry V. Clark; and

WHEREAS, Out of 56 charter members, 11 were in the Armed services during World War I and 43 active members served in World War II; other active members have served in Korea as well as Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, With a membership of dedicated firefighters, the record of the Otterkill Engine Company No. 1 in public service and fire protection

is one to be envied; for 24 hours a day, for 365 days a year, for 100 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 Otterkill Engine Company No. 1 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 Otterkill Engine Company No. 1 reflects the history and development of firefighting over the past 100 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 100th Anniversary of the Otterkill Engine Company No. 1, Campbell Hall Fire Department to be celebrated at its Annual Banquet on Saturday, November 1, 2014; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Otterkill Engine Company No. 1.