

2015-J389

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Chairman David Rickard upon the occasion of stepping down after 25 years of dedicated service to the Broome County Fire Chiefs' Association

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 Chairman David Rickard upon the occasion of stepping down after 25 years of dedicated service to the Broome County Fire Chiefs' Association; 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, After nearly three decades, David Rickard of the Five Mile Point Fire Company will be stepping down as an Officer of the Broome County Fire Chiefs' Association, and subsequently will no longer be a member of the Fire Advisory Board; and

WHEREAS, The Fire Advisory Board is made up of officers of the County Fire Chiefs' Association and members of the Broome County Legislature; the Board is appointed annually by the County Executive to assist in developing and maintaining fire training and mutual aid and act as an advisory body to the Legislature and Fire Coordinator; and

WHEREAS, David Rickard served as Chairman of the Fire Advisory Board for the past 25 years, working tirelessly to support emergency services and assist the County Office of Emergency Services (OES); and

WHEREAS, During the catastrophic floods of 2006 and 2011, David Rick-

ard assisted with the massive task of overseeing emergency flood operations, evacuations of residents, and overseeing mutual aid resources that came in from all over the state; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his 25-year tenure as Chairman, David Rickard has been instrumental in the opening of the Public Safety Facility, implementation of 911 in Broome County, consolidation of communications, and computer-aided dispatch; and

WHEREAS, In addition, he has assisted in revising the mutual aid plan, making recommendations on a new fire coordinator and most recently with the study for immense changes and upgrades to the county's antiquated radio system; 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; David Rickard is such a firefighter; throughout 25 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 Chairman David Rickard for 25 years of distinguished service; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Chairman David Rickard.