

2015-K508

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the New York City Fire Department

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is proud to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the New York City Fire Department, and to honor its past and present firefighting members for 150 years of fire protection to the citizens of New York City; and

WHEREAS, Fire departments are an integral part of community protection services in every locality of our State; during the past 150 years, the courageous and devoted firefighters of the FDNY have valiantly responded to all types of fire emergencies and have won the praise and respect of the community which they serve; and

WHEREAS, To celebrate this auspicious milestone, the New York City Fire Department (FDNY) will be hosting a series of community events throughout the year paying tribute to this fine organization's tradition of bravery and service to others; and

WHEREAS, Established as a paid professional organization in 1865, FDNY began after New York City's volunteer fire departments were abolished by a state act; two new firefighting agencies, the Metropolitan Fire District and the Metropolitan Fire Department, were created, and later combined during the consolidation of the Greater City of New York in 1898; and

WHEREAS, On March 25, 1911, the historic Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire killed 146 people, most of whom were young female immigrant workers; in response, new laws were enacted, and the FDNY established its first Fire College to train new firefighters later that year; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the 20th Century, FDNY continued to expand and grow its operations, adding such sophisticated fire equipment as tower ladders, the Super Pumper System, and the Maxi-Water Unit; other techni-

cal advances added include the introduction of high pressure water systems, the creation of a Marine fleet, and the utilization of improved radio communications; and

WHEREAS, FDNY experienced both its finest and saddest moment during the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001; New York City firefighters displayed tremendous heroism and resilience assisting their fellow citizens during one of the most horrific attacks in our country's history; 343 FDNY firefighters, EMTs and paramedics lost their lives that day while courageously taking part in rescue operations; and

WHEREAS, Today, FDNY is the largest municipal fire department in the United States and the second largest in the world; it employs approximately 10,200 uniformed firefighters and over 3,600 uniformed EMTs and paramedics who bravely serve more than eight million New York City residents; and

WHEREAS, With a membership of dedicated firefighters, the record of the New York City Fire Department in public service and fire protection is one to be envied; for 24 hours a day, for 365 days a year, for 150 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 FDNY 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, FDNY reflects the history and development of firefighting over the past 150 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 fire departments of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to proudly commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the New York City Fire Department; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Daniel A. Nigro, Commissioner, New York City Fire Department.