

## 2015-K588

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the Wynantskill Fire Department

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is proud to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Wynantskill Fire Department and to honor its past and present firefighting members for a century of fire protection to the citizens of Wynantskill, New York, 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 Wynantskill 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, In March of 1915, the Wynantskill Fire Department was recognized by the North Greenbush Town Board as officially incorporated; later that year, the department had its first real test when it received a call to extinguish a brush fire in Evergreen Cemetery; and

WHEREAS, In the beginning, the Wynantskill Fire Department consisted of approximately 40 members and one piece of equipment, a horse drawn Howe Hand Pumper; its first firehouse was located at the Odd Fellows Hall at the corner of Main Avenue and Church Street; and

WHEREAS, The first fire alarm system was primitive; Frank Houser, who ran a general store on Main Avenue opposite Route 150, had one of the few phones in town at the time; he would receive news of a fire, run down to the Odd Fellows Hall, and ring a bell which would alert the firefighters; and

WHEREAS, In 1927-1928, the Wynantskill Fire Department purchased its first modern piece of equipment, a grey truck, known as "the Grey Ghost" which continues to appear each year at the Memorial Day Parade; and

WHEREAS, In 1938, the Wynantskill Fire Department outgrew its original

facilities; it was at this time the department purchased and razed the Odd Fellows Hall, and constructed a new brick building which served as its firehouse until 1980, before the current building was constructed on Church Street; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the years, the Wynantskill Fire Department has fought numerous major fires including the 1942 McLoughlin Tavern fire, the 1949 Wynantskill School blaze, and the 1958 fire at the original American Legion Hall; and

WHEREAS, With a membership of dedicated firefighters, the record of the Wynantskill Fire Department 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 Wynantskill 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 Wynantskill Fire Department reflects the history and development of firefighting over the past century; 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 Wynantskill Fire

Department; and be it further

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