

## 2015-J3617

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Firefighter Thomas Rhein upon the occasion of being named Volunteer Firefighter of the Year by the Massapequa Chamber of Commerce

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body takes great pride in acknowledging those esteemed individuals within the State of New York who distinguish themselves in service to their community; 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, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend 1st Lieutenant Thomas Rhein upon the occasion of being named Volunteer Firefighter of the Year by the Massapequa Chamber of Commerce, to be celebrated at its Awards Ceremony held on Thursday, February 25, 2016, at Big Daddy's Restaurant in Massapequa, New York; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Rhein began his illustrious career with Massapequa Fire Department Company No. 3 on January 14, 2008; and

WHEREAS, A dedicated volunteer for the past eight years, Firefighter Thomas Rhein has attained the esteemed rank of 1st Lieutenant, and is recognized for responding to the most calls in the Department in this past year; and

WHEREAS, In his selection as Firefighter of the Year, Thomas Rhein truly exemplifies the collective concern of ordinary people across the community of New York State who voluntarily respond without the thought of danger or reward when others are in need of help; 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, Citizens across our State and Nation are inspired by and indebted to our valiant firefighters who exhibit courage and bravery every day in the course of their duties; 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; Thomas Rhein is such a firefighter; throughout his 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 Firefighter Thomas Rhein upon the occasion of being named Volunteer Firefighter of the Year by the Massapequa Chamber of Commerce; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Firefighter Thomas Rhein.