

## 2015-J3640

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION mourning the untimely and tragic death of Firefighter Justin E. Speights of the Silver Lake Fire Department

WHEREAS, It is with great sorrow and deep regret that this Legislative Body records the passing of Firefighter Justin E. Speights, noting the significance of his purposeful life and accomplishments; and

WHEREAS, The son of Lisa and Calvin Speights, Justin E. Speights was born on December 19, 1995, in Middletown, New York; at the young age of 20, Firefighter Justin E. Speights tragically died on January 1, 2016; and

WHEREAS, A lifetime resident of Scotchtown, New York, Firefighter Justin E. Speights was always athletic; as a child he was a member of the Town of Wallkill Little League Baseball Team and was a Star of the Pine Bush High School Football Team; and

WHEREAS, At the age of 16, Justin E. Speights joined the Silver Lake Fire Department; throughout his four years of service, he lent his assistance anywhere he was needed including providing mutual aid to other fire districts; and

WHEREAS, Known as one of the most trusted firefighters in the Silver Lake Fire District, Firefighter Justin E. Speights was the recipient of its 2013 Member of the Year Award; in addition, this remarkable young man was posthumously promoted to the esteemed position of First Lieutenant; and

WHEREAS, In 2014, Justin E. Speights proudly graduated from Pine Bush High School; after graduation, he pursued his dream of becoming a New York City Fireman, studying Fire Science at Orange County Community College; and

WHEREAS, Known as the ultimate peacemaker, Firefighter Justin E. Speights enjoyed spending time with his friends, fellow firefighters,

and family; he looked forward to meeting his first niece who was born after his death; and

WHEREAS, A devout New York Giants and Mets fan, Firefighter Justin E. Speights was thrilled to watch the Mets win the Pennant in 2015; and

WHEREAS, Firefighter Justin E. Speights distinguished himself in the Silver Lake Fire Department and by his sincere dedication and substantial contribution to the welfare of his community; and

WHEREAS, A great asset to society, Firefighter Justin E. Speights is going to be truly missed and will be a great loss to the Silver Lake Fire Department; 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; Justin E. Speights was such a firefighter; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his years of devoted service, Firefighter Justin E. Speights heroically performed, above and beyond the call of duty, those responsibilities which define the task of fire protection; and

WHEREAS, Firefighter Justin E. Speights is survived by his Mother, Lisa (Angel) Speights; his father, Calvin Eric (Maria) Speights and his wife; his sister, Nicole (Brentley); one brother, Aaron; two stepsisters, Aryel and Nina; and one stepbrother, Giovanni; his aunt, Marlene Faulkner; his uncle, Michael Homes; a niece, and many cousins; as well as a legion of fellow firefighters and friends who will long cherish his memory; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, Firefighter Justin E. Speights leaves behind a legacy which will long endure the passage of time and will remain a comforting memory to all he served and befriended; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the untimely and tragic death of Firefighter Justin E. Speights of the Silver Lake Fire Department; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Firefighter Justin E. Speights and to the Silver Lake Fire Department.