

2015-J3881

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Firefighter Gary Mathern upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition after 50 years of dedicated service to the Jeffersonville Fire Department

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 Firefighter Gary Mathern upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition after 50 years of dedicated service to the Jeffersonville Fire Department to be celebrated on Saturday, March 5, 2016, at the Rockland House in Roscoe, New York; and

WHEREAS, Gary Mathern began his career with the Jeffersonville Fire Department in 1966; and

WHEREAS, This esteemed firefighter rose through the ranks of the Jeffersonville Fire Department to become an Engineer, Chief Engineer, and Chief; he also ably served as a Commissioner and held the position of Chairman for many years; and

WHEREAS, Firefighter Gary Mathern also served as an extrication officer for many years and was instrumental in acquiring the Jaws of Life accident victim extrication equipment for the department; and

WHEREAS, During his illustrious tenure, Firefighter Gary Mathern was the recipient of numerous honors including the Jeffersonville Fire Department's 1977 Fireman of the Year Award and the 1987 Fireman of the Year Award from the Sullivan County Volunteer Firemen's Association for his heroic actions at a working structure fire; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout have been his wife, Myra, their daughter Lisa, and granddaughter Olivia, as well as his mother, Anna Mathern, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of his life and rejoice in his achievements; 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, 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; Gary Mathern is such a firefighter; throughout his 50 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 Gary Mathern upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition after 50 years of dedicated service to the Jeffersonville Fire Department; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Firefighter Gary Mathern.