

2015-J4650

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring outgoing Chief Dan McConnell upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition after many years of dedicated service to the Halesite 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 honor outgoing Chief Dan McConnell upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition after many years of dedicated service to the Halesite Fire Department, to be celebrated at its 115th Annual Installation of Officers on Saturday, April 16, 2016, at the Huntington Crescent Club, Huntington, New York; 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, Dan McConnell began his illustrious firefighting career in the early 1980s when he joined Halesite Fire Department's Junior Firefighter program; as a junior he learned the tradition, culture, and the many tools and tactics of fire service; and

WHEREAS, In July of 1985, at just 18 years old, Dan McConnell was sworn into Halesite Fire Department's Engine Company; upon graduating high school, he went away to school and ultimately graduated with a degree in Economics from Boston College; and

WHEREAS, After being recruited by a national insurance company to be part of a sales training program in 1989, Dan McConnell left the Depart-

ment for a few years when his early employment led him to live outside of the Halesite Fire District; and

WHEREAS, Dan McConnell rejoined the Department with the Hose Rescue Company in October of 1993; just three years later he was elected Lieutenant, followed by Captain in 1998; he would serve two separate terms as Captain, the first from 1998 to March of 2002, and the second from December 2002 until he was elected 2nd Assistant Chief in 2006; and WHEREAS, In December of 2012, Dan McConnell was elected Chief of Department, during which time he worked closely with his Assistant Chiefs, Officers and the Board of Fire Commissioners to tackle many projects including the implementation of new technology, expanding the tools used to manage the Department and its membership, recruitment and retention initiatives, re-launching the Junior Firefighter program and establishing a continuing education program for EMT's; and

WHEREAS, In addition, he assisted in distributing nearly 600 combination carbon monoxide/smoke detectors to local residents as a result of the District receiving a FEMA grant; 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, Firefighters exemplify the power of human compassion and the strength of the American spirit through actions of the most heroic magnitude; their sacrifices and their selfless dedication merit tribute and recognition by all citizens of this great country; and

WHEREAS, Many firefighters have lost their lives to save the lives of others; each and every day, they face danger and peril without fear and perform their job with the utmost concern and professionalism; 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; outgoing Chief Dan McConnell 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 honor outgoing Chief Dan McConnell upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition after many years of dedicated service to the Halesite Fire Department; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to outgoing Chief Dan McConnell.