

2015-J5130

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 200th Anniversary of the Eagle-Matt Lee Fire Company No. 1 to be celebrated on June 25, 2016

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is proud to commemorate the 200th Anniversary of the Eagle-Matt Lee Fire Company No. 1 and to honor its past and present firefighting members for 200 years of fire protection to the citizens of the Village of Ballston Spa and its surrounding communities; and

WHEREAS, At a public meeting held January 27, 1815, the citizens of Ballston Spa decided to build an engine house and purchase a fire engine, and directed the trustees to organize a fire company immediately; and

WHEREAS, Engine House No. 1 was first located on the southwest corner of Bath and Walnut Streets, on a lot owned by John Wait; in 1845, it was moved across the street to the site of the present Village Police Station; and

WHEREAS, The old house was a small, one story frame building, with a cupola for the Bell which was replaced in 1867; in the year 1980, a new station was finally built and moved into, presently located on the corner of Washington and Bath Streets; and

WHEREAS, On June 10, 1843, the Fire Engine Company No. 1 became known as the Eagle Fire Company; the equipment of the company at this time consisted of a first class engine made by Button and Company of Waterford, two hose carts, ladder and pike poles; and

WHEREAS, The J. A. Harvey Hook & Ladder Company, No. 1 was organized July 11, 1868, and carried the name until February 16, 1887, when it was changed to Matt Lee Hook & Ladder Company, No. 1; the rooms of this company were also in the Engine House No. 1 on Bath Street; and

WHEREAS, On September 25, 1933, at a joint meeting of the Matt Lee

Hook & Ladder Company and Eagle Fire Company, it was voted to consolidate the two companies, and the name of the combined company was changed to the Eagle-Matt Lee Fire Company No. 1; and

WHEREAS, Charles Duffy was elected Captain and ably served in this capacity for the next 25 years; and

WHEREAS, Fire departments are an integral part of community protection services in every locality of our State; during the past 200 years, the courageous and devoted firefighters of the Eagle-Matt Lee Fire Company No. 1 have valiantly responded to all types of fire emergencies and have won the praise and respect of the community which they serve; and

WHEREAS, With a membership of dedicated firefighters, the record of the Eagle-Matt Lee Fire Company No. 1 in public service and fire protection is one to be envied; for 24 hours a day, for 365 days a year, for 200 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 Eagle-Matt Lee Fire Company No. 1 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 Eagle-Matt Lee Fire Company No. 1 reflects the history and development of firefighting over the past 200 years; 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 200th Anniversary of the Eagle-Matt Lee Fire Company No. 1 to be celebrated on Saturday, June 25, 2016, at the Saratoga County Fairgrounds, Ballston Spa, New York; and be it further RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Eagle-Matt Lee Fire Company No. 1.