

## 2017-J1347

Senate Resolution No. 1347

BY: Senator DEFRANCISCO

HONORING Roger Shalala upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition after 50 years of dedicated service to the Elbridge Volunteer Fire Company

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, Since the early days of "teapot steamers," volunteer firefighter has been the cornerstone of our great Nation's efforts to spare us from the ravages of fire; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and honor those esteemed individuals within our midst whose work and civic endeavors have enhanced the quality of life in their communities and the great State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Roger Shalala upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition after 50 years of dedicated service to the Elbridge Volunteer Fire Company, to be celebrated at its Annual Installation of Officers Banquet on Saturday, April 22, 2016, at the Spinning Wheel

Restaurant in North Syracuse, New York; and

WHEREAS, Roger Shalala joined the Elbridge Volunteer Fire Company on December 6, 1966; he quickly learned the tradition, culture, and the many tools and tactics of fire service; and

WHEREAS, Roger Shalala's commitment to the Elbridge Volunteer Fire Company is second to none, and he wasted no time in getting heavily involved with the department; in 1968, only two years after he joined, Roger Shalala became President of the Elbridge Volunteer Fire Company; and

WHEREAS, After his service as President, Roger Shalala supported the Elbridge Volunteer Fire Company as its Secretary for 24 years; and

WHEREAS, Over his tenure, Roger Shalala has gained a wealth of knowledge and has also become the resident historian of the Elbridge Volunteer Fire Company; and

WHEREAS, Roger Shalala has participated countless times in parades with the Elbridge Volunteer Fire Company as a marcher, apparatus driver and passenger; and

WHEREAS, Roger Shalala has long been a member that his department can count on, and has always volunteered at the Elbridge Volunteer Fire Company's fundraisers; he has been the cornerstone of many pancake breakfasts, chicken and biscuit dinners, and chicken barbecues; 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; Roger Shalala 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; and

WHEREAS, Along his journey, Roger Shalala was supported in his service to the Elbridge Volunteer Fire Company by his late wife of 42 years, Linda; his son, David; daughter, Susan; and his brother, Robert; as well as his two grandchildren, Miranda and Zachary; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit, imbued with a sense of compassion, and having contributed to the growth and excellence of this great Empire State, Roger Shalala, in every capacity in which he served, has left a permanent mark on the Elbridge Volunteer Fire Company and his community; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to recognize and honor Roger Shalala upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition after 50 years of dedicated service to the Elbridge Volunteer Fire Company; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Roger Shalala.