



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Peter Oberacker

## Senator Oberacker Bill Honoring Longtime Ulster County Volunteer First Responder Signed into Law

JEFF BISHOP, COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR July 21, 2022

| ISSUE: **VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER, BRIDGE DEDICATION**



**ALBANY, 07/21/22 --** State Senator Peter Oberacker (R/C – Schenevus) today announced legislation he sponsored honoring longtime Ulster County volunteer firefighter and ambulance corp. member, John “Jody” Rossitz, has been signed into law.

Senator Peter Oberacker said, **“Our first responders contribute so much to our communities and John ‘Jody’ Rossitz was the embodiment of the spirit and dedication that runs through all of our volunteers. It is my humble honor to help keep Chief Rossitz’s memory alive and ensure that others**

know what he meant to his community and his fellow volunteer firefighters and first responders.”

Senate bill 7255 designates the bridge on State Route 28 over the Esopus Creek in the town of Shandaken as the "Chief John 'Jody' Rossitz Memorial Bridge." This bill commemorates the life of John Rossitz of Olivera. He served 34 years as a volunteer firefighter and as Chief of the Big Indian-Olivera Fire Department. In 2011, he was instrumental in organizing relief efforts for the community after Hurricane Irene. He was also an active member of both the Shandaken and Woodstock Ambulance Corps.

**“Chief Rossitz also took on a number of additional responsibilities including Training Coordinator, mentoring the next generation of members. I know as a volunteer firefighter myself, there is nothing more important than ensuring a strong future and it starts with veteran firefighters passing on their knowledge to others. Jody truly understood all facets of what it takes to be a community hero,”** added Senator Oberacker.

Chief Rossitz passed away in 2018 at the age of 59.

Companion legislation was sponsored by Assemblyman Kevin Cahill.

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#### RELATED LEGISLATION

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### 2021-S7255A

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- Introduced

- ◦ In Committee Assembly
  - In Committee Senate
- ◦ On Floor Calendar Assembly
  - On Floor Calendar Senate
- ◦ Passed Assembly
  - Passed Senate
- Delivered to Governor
- Signed By Governor
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Designates a portion of the state highway system the Chief John "Jody" Rossitz Memorial Bridge

June 10, 2021

Signed by Governor

Sponsored by **Peter Oberacker**

Do you support this bill?