

2013-J174

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 75th Anniversary of the Harris Hill Fire Company, Clarence, New York

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is proud to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Harris Hill Fire Company, and to honor its past and present firefighting members for 75 years of fire protection to the citizens of Clarence and its surrounding communities; and

WHEREAS, The Harris Hill Fire Company was founded in 1937 to provide fire protection to those who lived in the Harris Hill Garden area; John H. Farrell was named president, and Nelson Irons was the first chief; and

WHEREAS, Meetings were held in the schoolhouse on Harris Hill Road; the first piece of apparatus was a Studebaker, and a siren was installed atop Dadswell's gas station to alert firefighters to emergency calls; and

WHEREAS, The district has grown from a little bedroom community to one that encompasses large businesses, including Eastern Hills Mall, Home Depot and Walmart; and

WHEREAS, With a stretch of the Transit Road corridor in its district, Harris Hill Fire Company protects one of the largest commercial areas in Western New York; and

WHEREAS, Today, the Harris Hill Fire Company now provides emergency medical services, ice water rescue and other help in addition to protection; a new facility replaced the small fire station in 2006 and it was among the first fire company facilities in the area to be LEED-certified as a green building; and

WHEREAS, When the fire company was founded, hip boots, orange rubber gloves, a rubber raincoat and a metal helmet made up a firefighter's gear; now the equipment is much more sophisticated, with high-tech air packs, fire resistant clothing and additional protective elements; and

WHEREAS, With a membership of approximately 60 members, the Harris Hill Fire Company provides fire prevention presentations to schools and gives education tours to Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and others; and

WHEREAS, Fire departments are an integral part of community protection

services in every locality of our State; during the past 75 years, the courageous and devoted firefighters of the Harris Hill Fire Company 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 Harris Hill Fire Company in public service and fire protection is one to be envied; for 24 hours a day, for 365 days a year, for 75 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 Harris Hill Fire Company 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 Harris Hill Fire Company reflects the history and development of firefighting over the past 75 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 75th Anniversary of the Harris Hill Fire Company; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Harris Hill Fire Company, Clarence, New York.