

STATE OF NEW YORK
LEGISLATURE OF ERIE COUNTY
BUFFALO, N.Y., MAY 24TH, 2018 A.D.

I HEREBY CERTIFY, *That at a regular session of the Legislature of Erie County, held in the County Hall, in the City of Buffalo, on the 24th day of May, 2018 A.D., a resolution was adopted, of which the following is a true copy:*

WHEREAS, *the Erie County Legislature seeks to honor individuals and institutions of Erie County who enhance the quality of life in the community through their efforts; and*

WHEREAS, *the Swormville Fire Company was established on January 25, 1918, in the hamlet of Swormville, New York, after a gathering of 22 men at the home of William Smith, who would go on to hold the title of Chief for 30 years; and*

WHEREAS, *William Smith, with the help of the community, led fundraising efforts to purchase the first fire hall for the Swormville Fire Company, and where in early March of 1918, a committee was formed to locate a suitable place to build a fire hall, which once again brought the community together to raise funds for the property located on the west side of Transit Road next to the William Smith Hotel; and*

WHEREAS, *the Swormville Fire Company held their first marching drill in August of 1918, and where today, the firefighters continue the long-standing tradition of marching in local parades; and*

WHEREAS, *in late 1919, the fire hall was built, where it quickly became the center of activity in the small farming hamlet of Swormville, and where the ladies auxiliary was formed in 1920, which held regular card parties and dances to raise funds to purchase trucks and other fire equipment; and*

WHEREAS, *within the next few years, the Swormville Fire Company purchased two pumpers, built a cistern at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Swormville to insure an adequate water supply, and installed a siren on the fire hall; and*

WHEREAS, *with continued growth, the Swormville Fire Company decided to expand to a larger facility, which unfortunately burned to the ground, but was replaced by a new fire hall that is still in use today; and*

WHEREAS, *in the 1930s, the Swormville Fire Company joined the Amherst Fire Council Bowling League, formed a first aid team, established a Red Cross First Aid Station, and was recognized as an exemplary organization; and*

WHEREAS, *during World War II, firefighters were asked to operate the Civil Defense aircraft lookout tower on the top of the Graf home just north of the fire hall; and*

WHEREAS, *in 1949, the Swormville Fire Company hosted its first community Christmas party, and where in February of 1955, they celebrated their first annual installation banquet, which to this day continues to be the highlight of the year for the members; and*

WHEREAS, by the late 1950s, the **Swormville Fire Company** increased its services by purchasing a first aid truck, and where during the next decade, they began to operate weekly bingo games; and

WHEREAS, in the 1960s, the **Swormville Fire Company** organized a competitive softball league, and developed a recreational golf league, which expanded in 1991, where fireman competed in volleyball, euchre, and horseshoes on Brotherhood Day; and

WHEREAS, throughout its storied history, the **Swormville Fire Company** has continually been at the forefront of change, and where in 1973, membership was extended to 16 and 17 year-olds, and where today, women are an integral part of the company's membership; and

WHEREAS, the **Swormville Fire Company**, knowing an important component of good fire service involves education and training, holds bimonthly drills that focus on firematic and emergency medical training, present many state courses covering a variety of topics, and where every year, many members successfully complete advanced training courses at the New York State Fire Academy located in Montour Falls, New York, and also where members have participated in fire police training classes, and consequently, have received their badges from the Town of Amherst; and

WHEREAS, for a century, the dedicated firefighters of the **Swormville Fire Company** have pledged to provide fire protection, protect life and property, and render various emergency services to the citizens of Amherst and Clarence, New York, and the surrounding communities; and

WHEREAS, the **Swormville Fire Company** is celebrating its 100th Anniversary this year, with a grand celebration to occur on June 2, 2018; 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 past and present firefighting members of the **Swormville Fire Company**.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, the Erie County Legislature pauses in its deliberations to recognize and acknowledge the

Swormville Fire Company

and all of its members for their countless hours of selfless commitment of service to the citizens of Amherst and to commemorate its 100th Anniversary this year.

Edward A. Rath, III
Erie County Legislator, 6th District

Robert M. Graber
Clerk of the Erie County Legislature