

**STATE OF NEW YORK**  
**LEGISLATURE OF ERIE COUNTY**  
**BUFFALO, N.Y., FEBRUARY 16, 2023 A.D.**

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT at a regular session of the Legislature of Erie County held in the Old County Hall, in the City of Buffalo, on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of February 2023 A.D., a resolution was adopted, of which the following is a true copy:

**Honoring Joshua Gates  
for Being Recognized as “Firefighter of the Year”**

**WHEREAS**, the Erie County Legislature is pleased to honor individuals and institutions in our community who enhance the quality of life for their family, friends, and neighbors through their conscientious and selfless service; and

**WHEREAS**, a deadly winter storm unleashed a fierce blizzard that swept through Erie County over Christmas weekend, burying the City of Buffalo and surrounding suburbs in over 52 inches of snow, leaving roadways impassable, stranding people in cars and away from their homes, forcing hundreds of vehicles to be abandoned on roads and highways, and tragically resulting in the loss of more than 40 lives; and

**WHEREAS**, when the dangerous storm conditions made it impossible for emergency vehicles to respond and caused as much as two-thirds of the snow-clearing equipment to be unavailable for service at the height of the storm, **Junior Firefighter Joshua Gates** and **members of the Millgrove Fire Department** sprang into action; and

**WHEREAS**, **Junior Firefighter Joshua Gates** and **members of the Millgrove Fire Department** were on standby for 26 straight hours, leaving their families and loved ones behind to spend day and night answering calls and supporting residents; and

**WHEREAS**, during this period Millgrove Fire Department’s selfless members responded to 14 calls, including a commercial structure fire, and rescued approximately 60 people whom they housed and cared for in the fire station until safe transfer to a shelter was possible.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Erie County Legislature pauses in its deliberations to honor **Junior Firefighter Joshua Gates** for being named “Firefighter of the Year” by Millgrove Fire Department and express their endless gratitude to him for his response to the 2022 Christmas blizzard.

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**HON. FRANK J. TODARO**  
*Erie County Legislator –8<sup>th</sup> District*